

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

16
SEPT.

"SPIDEY BATTLES
DAREDEVIL!"

FEATURING:
THE EERIE
MENACE OF
THE
RINGMASTER
!!

WARNING!! IF YOU DON'T SAY THIS IS ONE OF
THE GREATEST ISSUES YOU'VE EVER READ, WE
MAY NEVER TALK TO YOU AGAIN!



"DUEL WITH DAREDEVIL"

also FEATURING THE UNIQUE VILLAINY OF
THE RINGMASTER and HIS CIRCUS OF CRIME



ACTION!
Thrills!
SUSPENSE!

**ALL
ON THE
INSIDE!**

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MASTER OF THE SPOKEN WORD
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DEAN OF DRAMATIC DRAWINGS
Lettered by: **S. ROSEN**
SULTAN OF SPARKLING SPELLING

A TEEN-AGER'S LIFE IS FILLED WITH UPS AND DOWNS! THIS IS ONE OF THE **DOWN** PERIODS FOR YOUNG PETER PARKER, AS HIS WELL-MEANING AUNT TALKS ON, AND ON, AND ON...

BUT WHY **WON'T** YOU CALL MARY JANE WATSON?? I'M SURE YOU'D **LIKE** HER IF YOU DATED HER!

BUT I'VE **GOT** A GIRL FRIEND, AUNT MAY! I DON'T WANT ANY **BLIND** DATES!

BUT MRS. WATSON IS **SUCH** A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE! AND HER NIECE, MARY JANE, WOULD JUST **LOVE** TO MEET YOU! AND YOU'RE NOT REALLY **ENGAGED**, OR ANYTHING!

GOSH, AUNT MAY, I'M OLD ENOUGH TO ARRANGE MY **OWN** DATES... HONEST!

I'M NOT GETTING ANY STUDYING DONE! I MIGHT AS WELL GO OUT!

I'LL BE BACK LATER, AUNT MAY! I'M GOING OUT FOR SOME AIR!

BE SURE YOU DRESS WARMLY, DEAR! IT'S A BIT NIPPY OUT!

FIVE MINUTES LATER, IF DOTING AUNT MAY HAPPENED TO GLANCE SKYWARD, SHE'D SEE THE MOST COLORFUL, MOST DRAMATIC, MOST EXCITING OF ALL SUPER-HEROES SWINGING THROUGH THE SKY... NOT FEELING THE NIP IN THE AIR ONE SINGLE BIT!

GOOD OL' AUNT MAY! SHE MEANS WELL, BLESS HER... BUT SOMETIMES I THINK I'LL POP MY CORK IF I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HER NAGGING!

AFTER LONG, RELAXING MINUTES OF EFFORTLESSLY PROPELLING HIMSELF FROM ROOFTOP TO ROOFTOP, **SPIDER-MAN** COMES TO A SUDDEN HALT... HIS KEEN EYES SPOTTING TROUBLE BELOW...

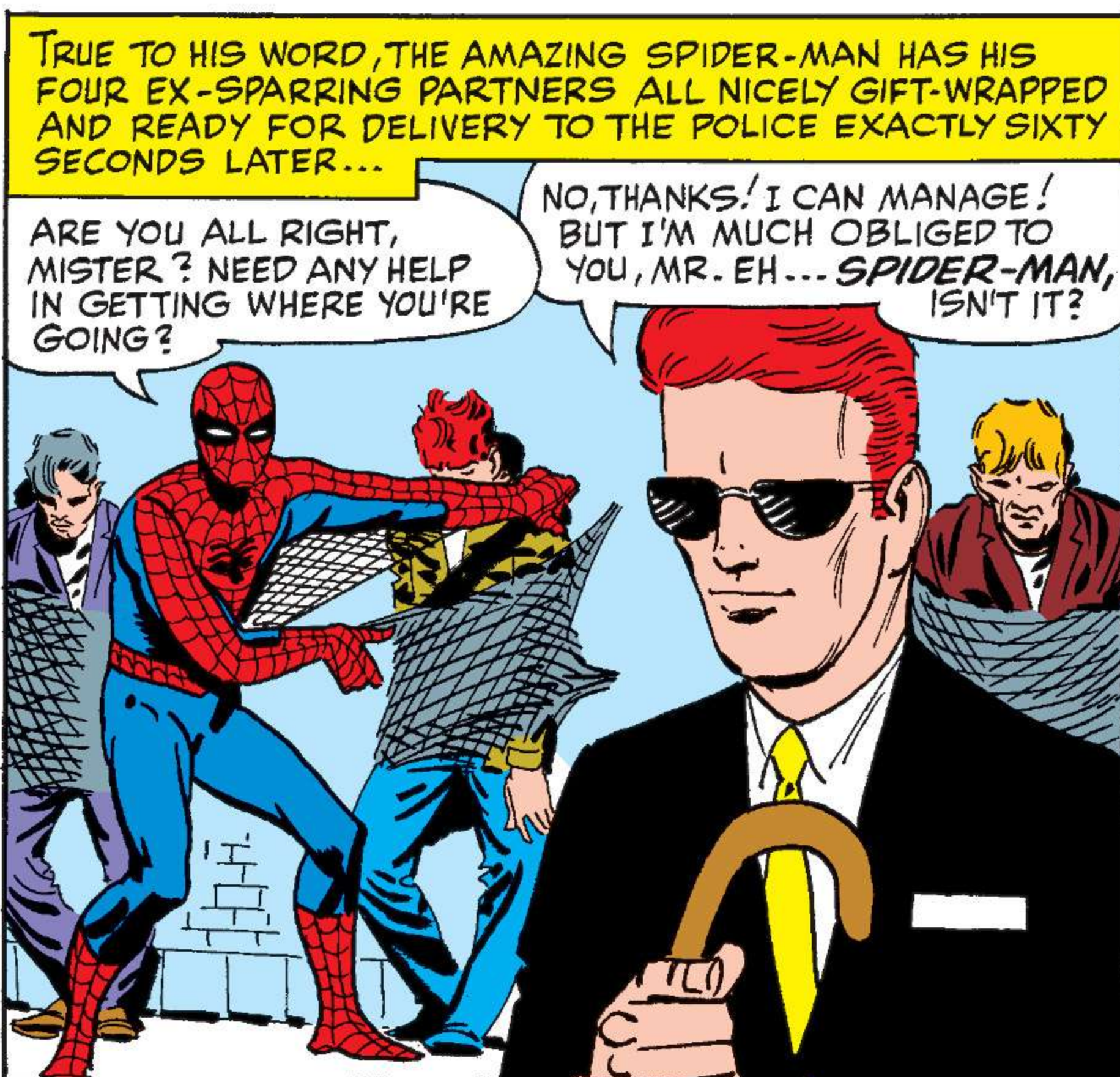
WELL, WELL! IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THIS EVENING WON'T BE A TOTAL WASTE, AFTER ALL!

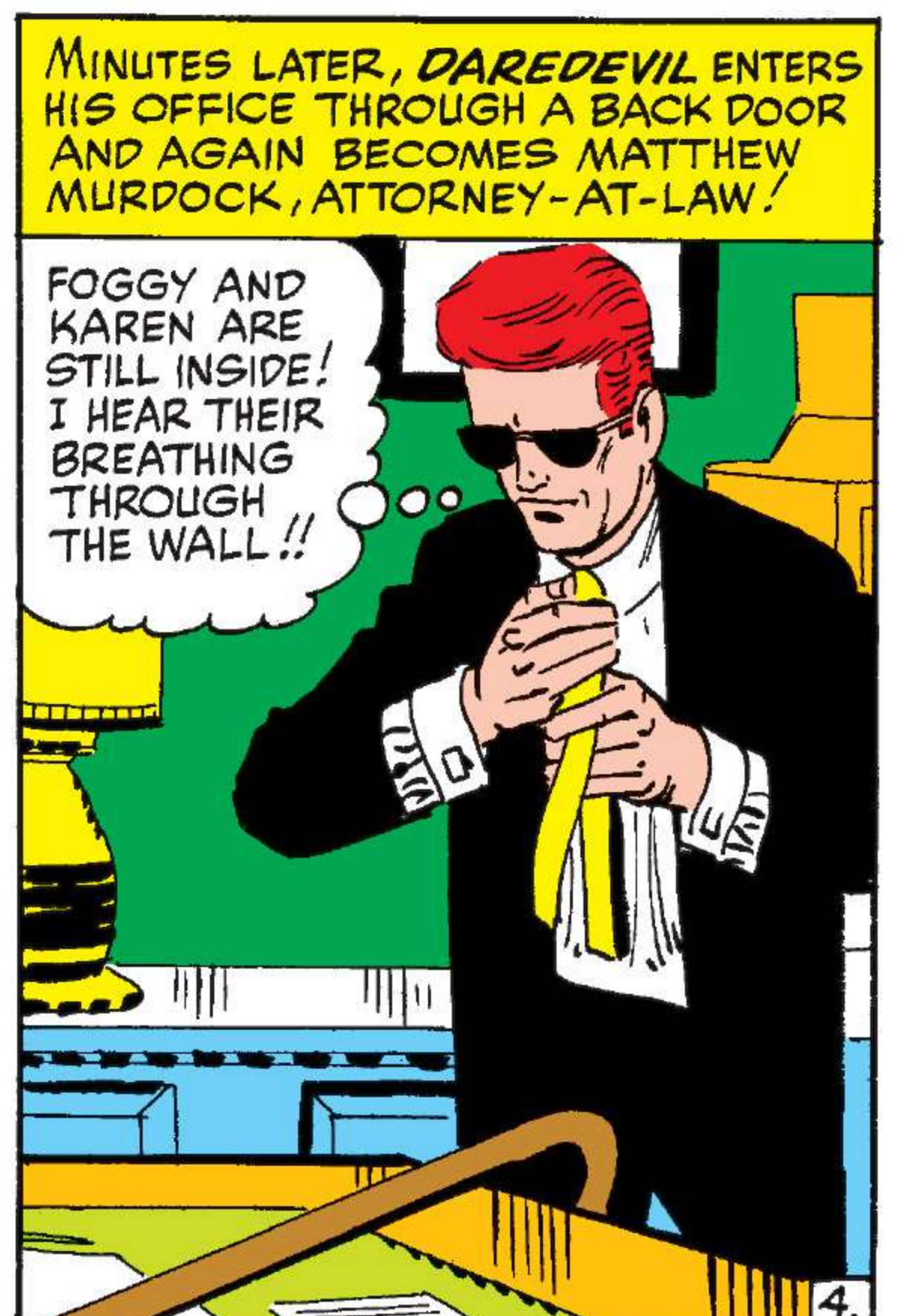
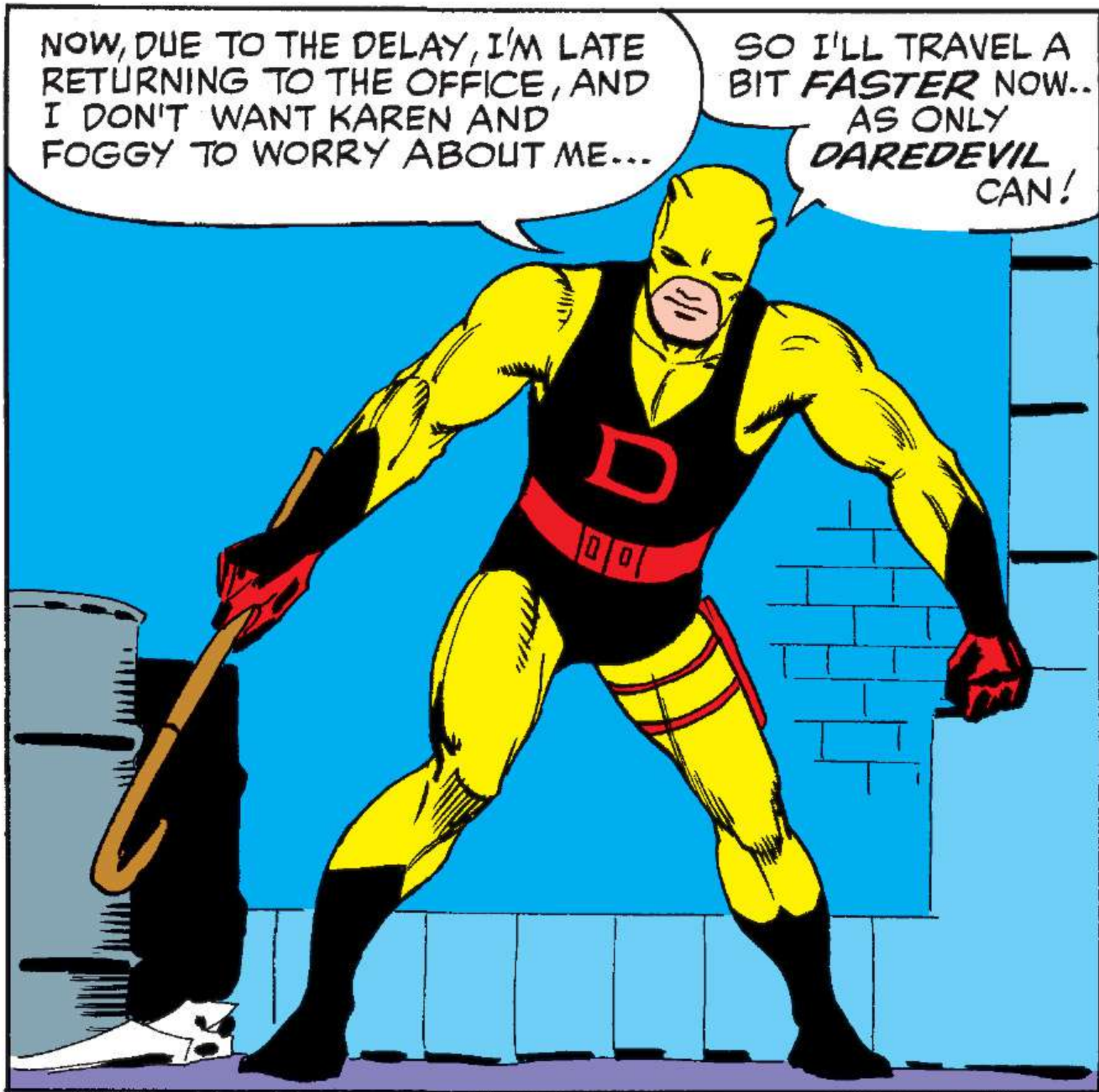
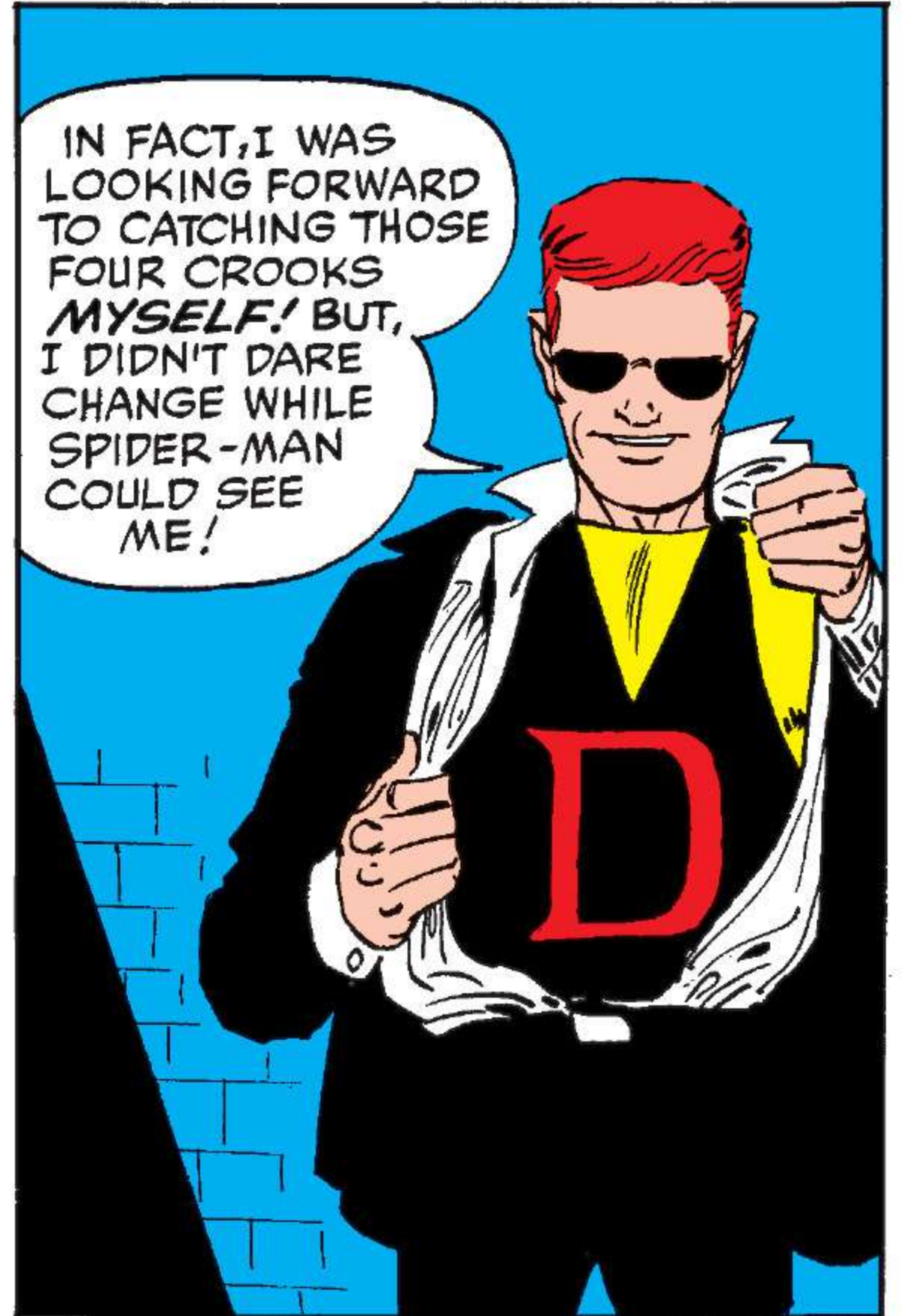
FOUR SHADY-LOOKING CHARACTERS, RACING OUT OF THE REAR OF THAT STORE... CARRYING MONEY BAGS! JUST WHAT I NEED TO SNAP MYSELF OUT OF THE DOLDRUMS!

STEP ON IT! THE BURGLAR ALARM WENT OFF! THE COPS'LL BE AFTER US SOON!

LOOK! A BLIND MAN! HE MIGHT HAVE HEARD OUR VOICES! WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM HERE TO IDENTIFY US LATER!

UH-OH! THAT INNOCENT BYSTANDER IS IN FOR TROUBLE! BUT... NOT FOR **LONG**!





AND THEN...

OH, MR. MURDOCK! WE DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

I'M TAKING KAREN TO THE CIRCUS TOMORROW, MATT... AND WE WONDERED IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN US!

THE CIRCUS?

NO, THANKS, FOGGY! YOU TWO GO ALONE AND ENJOY YOURSELVES! I HAVE QUITE A BIT OF UNFINISHED WORK TO CATCH UP ON TOMORROW!

BUT, MR. MURDOCK... YOU WORK SO HARD! YOU **NEED** SOME RELAXATION!

KAREN'S RIGHT, MATT! YOU MUSTN'T ALLOW YOUR HANDICAP TO MAKE YOU A RECLUSE! YOU CAN'T WORK ALL THE TIME!

I DARE NOT TELL THEM THE **TRUTH**... THAT I DON'T TRUST MY FEELINGS FOR KAREN... IT'S BETTER THAT I DON'T SEE HER SOCIALLY!

BUT NOW LET US LEAVE THE LAW OFFICES OF FRANKLIN "FOGGY" NELSON AND MATTHEW MURDOCK, AND TURN OUR ATTENTION TO NEW YORK'S BIGGEST ARENA, THE NEXT DAY, WHERE WE FIND...

KEEP REHEARSING! EVERYTHING MUST BE **PERFECT** TONIGHT! FOR THIS WILL BE OUR GREATEST "**SHOW**"!

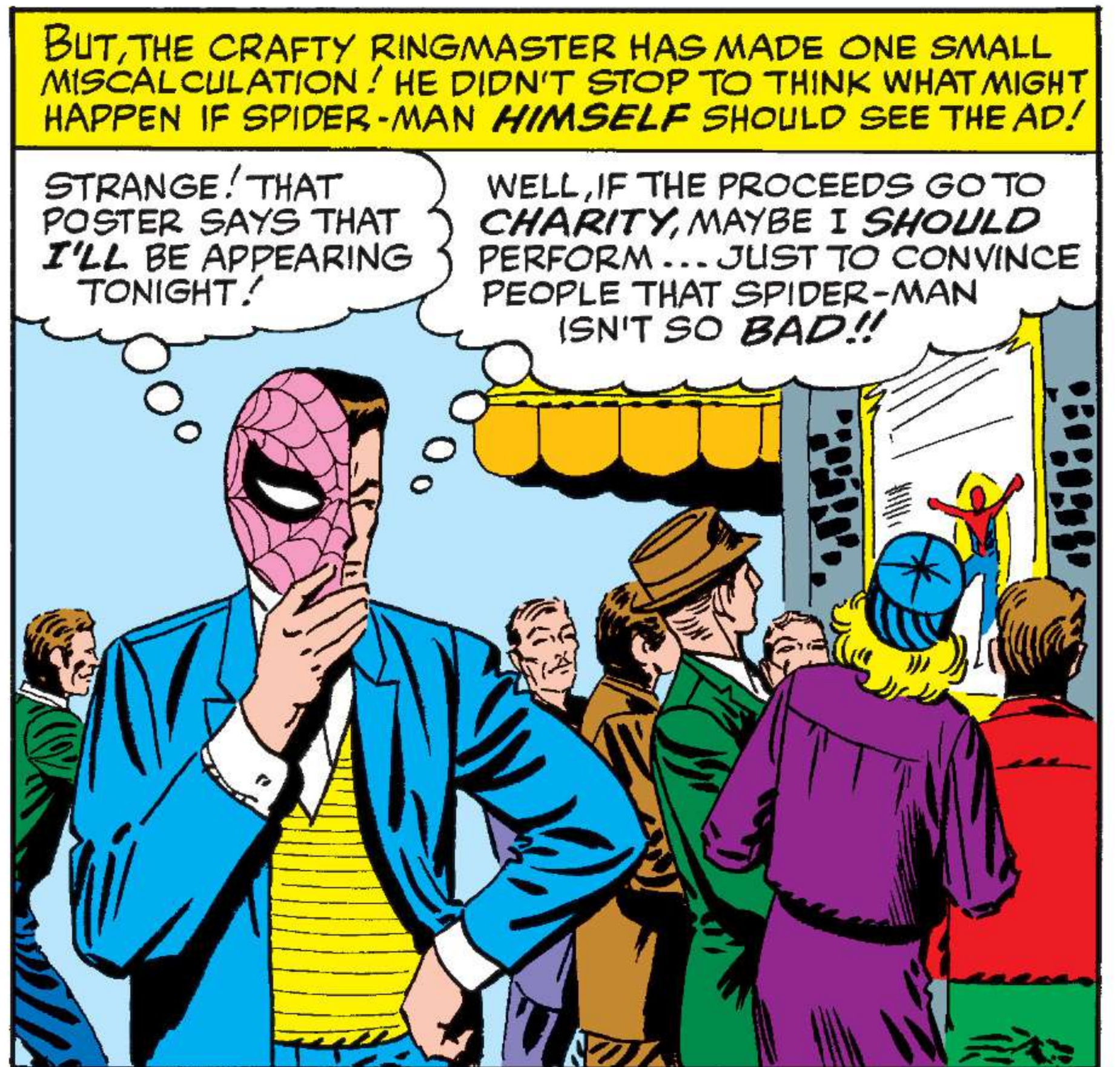
NEVER BEFORE HAS SUCH A DARING CRIME BEEN ATTEMPTED IN THE HEART OF A BIG CITY!

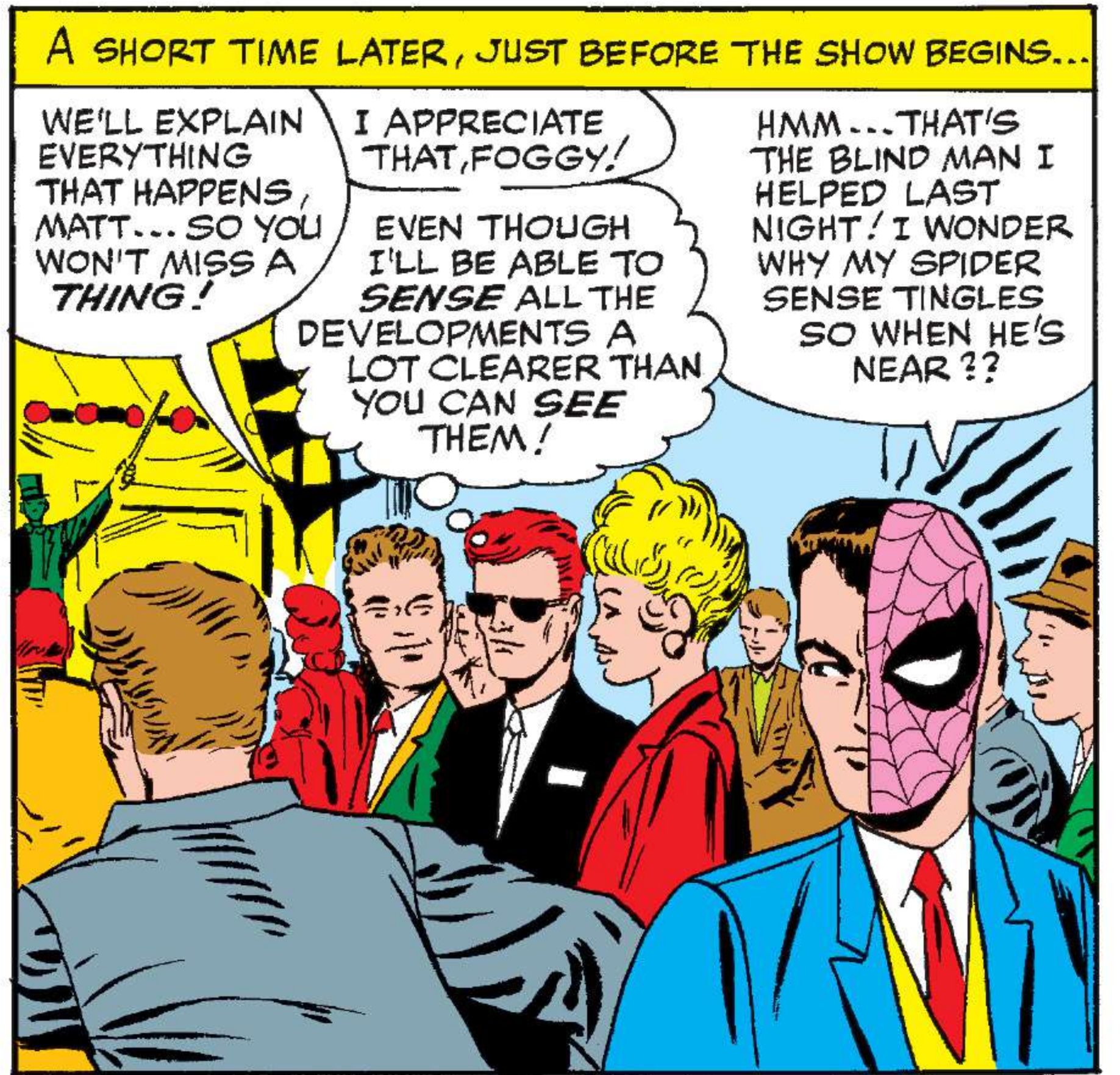
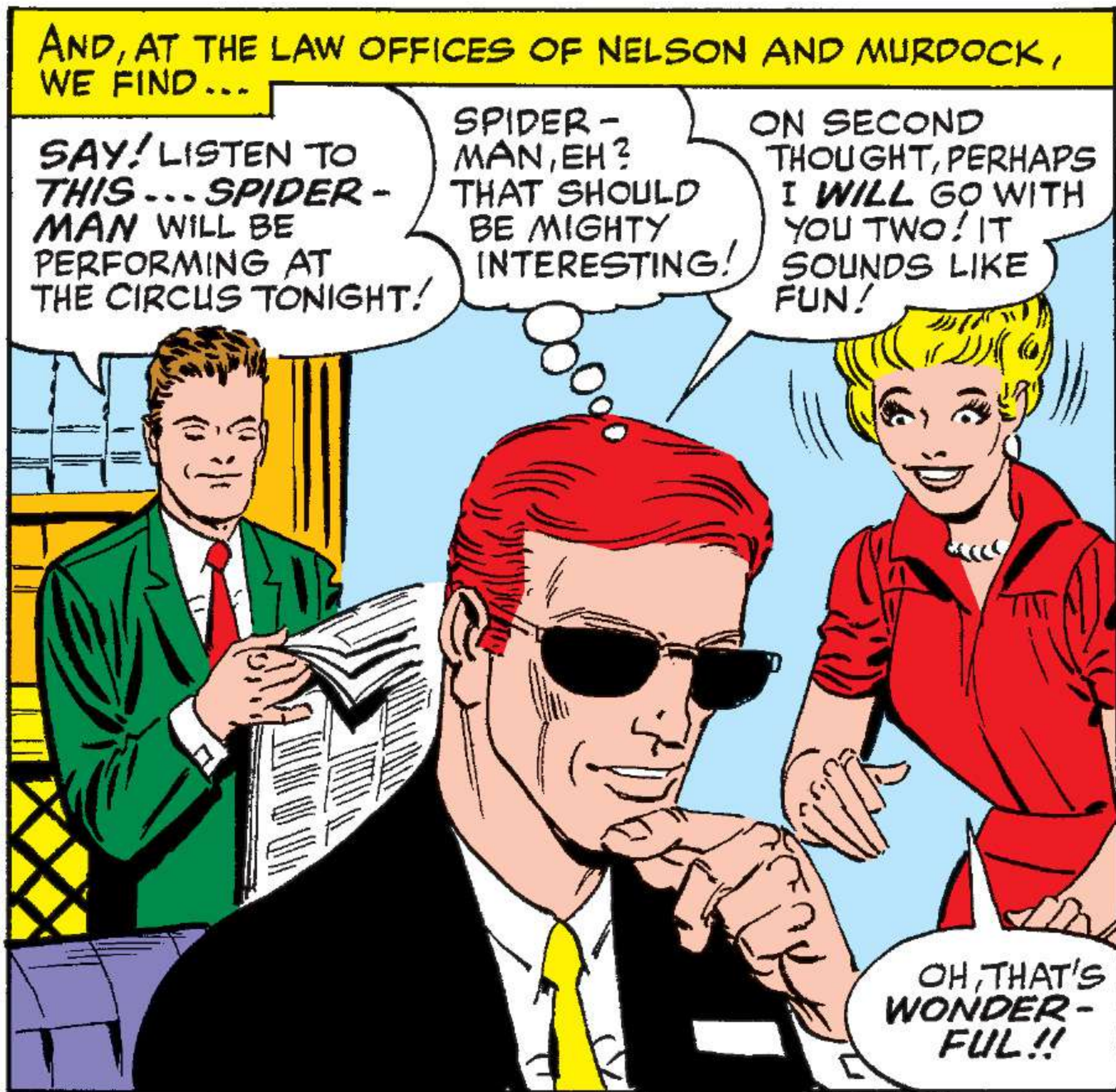
EVER SINCE THE **HULK** DEFEATED ME MONTHS AGO,* I'VE PLANNED THIS ONE SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE... TO OUTDO ANYTHING WE'VE EVER DONE IN THE PAST!!

BRING ME THE NEWSPAPERS, THE ADS, THE POSTERS! I WANT TO CHECK THEM! WE MUST MAKE SURE WE PLAY TO A SELL-OUT AUDIENCE TONIGHT!

HERE THEY ARE, RINGMASTER! EVERYTHING IS THE WAY YOU WANT IT!

*FROM THE **HULK** MAGAZINE (NOW DISCONTINUED) ISSUE #3





AND, AS THE MINUTES DRAG ON, THE AUDIENCE GROWS MORE AND MORE IMPATIENT...

WE WANT SPIDER-MAN! WE WANT SPIDER-MAN!

SPIDER-MAN IS UP ABOVE THE TENT! I CAN DETECT HIS UNUSUALLY STRONG PULSE-RATE UP THERE!

IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT US TO DESCRIBE, MATT... JUST SAY SO!

BRING ON SPIDER-MAN! WE WANT SPIDER-MAN!

ACTUALLY, I SHOULD BE DESCRIBING THINGS TO THEM! SPIDER-MAN IS ABOUT TO MAKE HIS APPEARANCE NOW! HIS PULSE HAS SPEEDED UP... HE'S PREPARING FOR ACTION!

WELL, THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY! HERE GOES!!

I WISH THE RINGMASTER WOULD GIVE US THE SIGNAL! I'M GETTIN' JITTERY! WHAT IF SOMETHIN' GOES WRONG??

LOOK! UP THERE! HE DID SHOW UP! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!!!

YAY, SPIDER-MAN!!

LISTEN TO 'EM CHEER! I GUESS I'M NOT AS UNPOPULAR AS I USED TO THINK!

HOWDY, FOLKS!

JUDGING BY THE DIRECTION OF AIR CURRENTS, SPIDER-MAN IS SLOWLY DESCENDING FROM THE CEILING... AND HE'S UPSIDE-DOWN, BECAUSE HIS HEARTBEAT IS HIGHER THAN THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE!

POOR MATT! HOW CAN HE APPRECIATE ANY OF THIS?!

BOY! IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS WITHOUT HAVING SOME DEADLY ENEMY TO WORRY ABOUT AT THE SAME TIME!

YAY, SPIDER-MAN!!

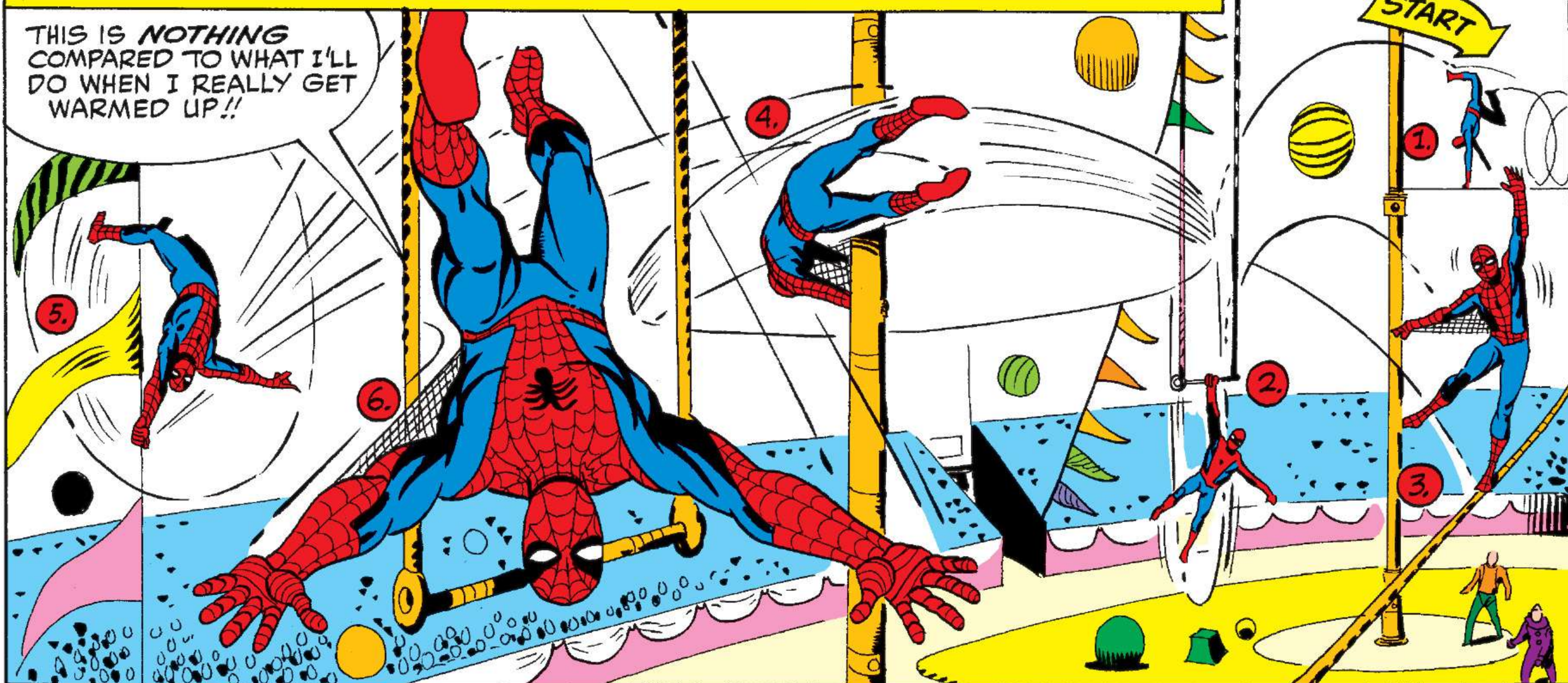
GO! GO! GO! SPIDER-MAN!

MORE! MORE! GIVE US MORE!

ATTABOY, SPIDEY!!!

THEN, FOR THE NEXT FEW FABULOUS MOMENTS, SPIDER-MAN GIVES AN EXHIBITION THE LIKE OF WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN WITNESSED BEFORE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD...!!

THIS IS *NOTHING* COMPARED TO WHAT I'LL DO WHEN I REALLY GET WARMED UP!!



I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D *REALLY* SHOW UP!! BUT, THERE'S NO REASON TO LET HIM INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS! EVEN *SPIDER-MAN* CANNOT STOP ME!



WOW! THIS IS THE GREATEST ACT I'VE EVER *SEEN*!

HE MUST DO IT WITH *MIRRORS*!

THAT GUY'S THE *MOST*!



THE TIME HAS COME! THE ARENA IS PACKED! NOBODY SUSPECTS A THING!

LET'S GO!! YOU ALL KNOW WHAT TO DO! THERE MUST BE NO SLIP-UPS!!



THAT MUST BE THE *RINGMASTER* DOWN THERE! I DIDN'T SEE HIM BEFORE!

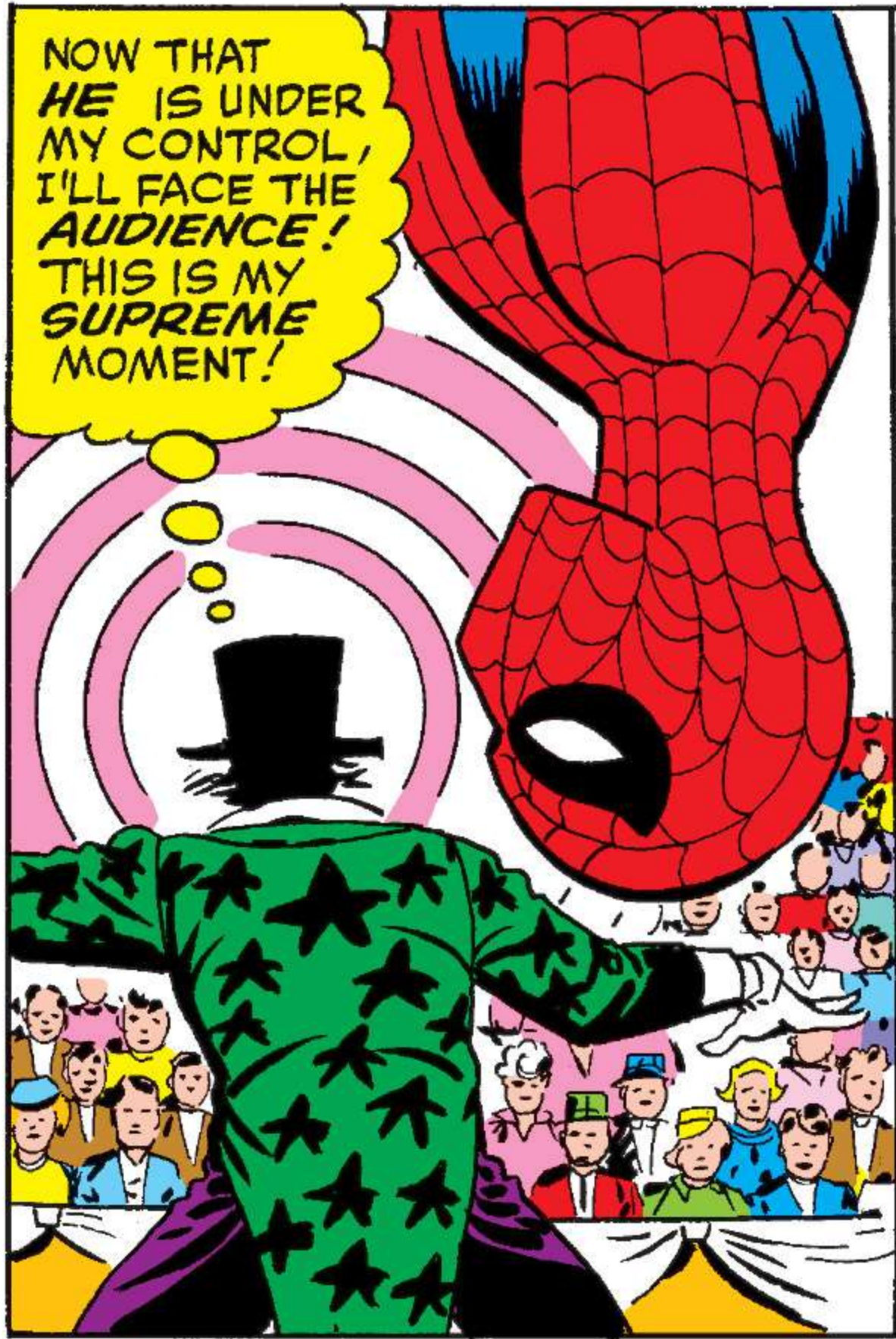


I WONDER WHY HE'S STANDING AND *WAVING* LIKE THAT ?? WHAT'S HE TRYIN' TO DO, CRAB MY ACT ??

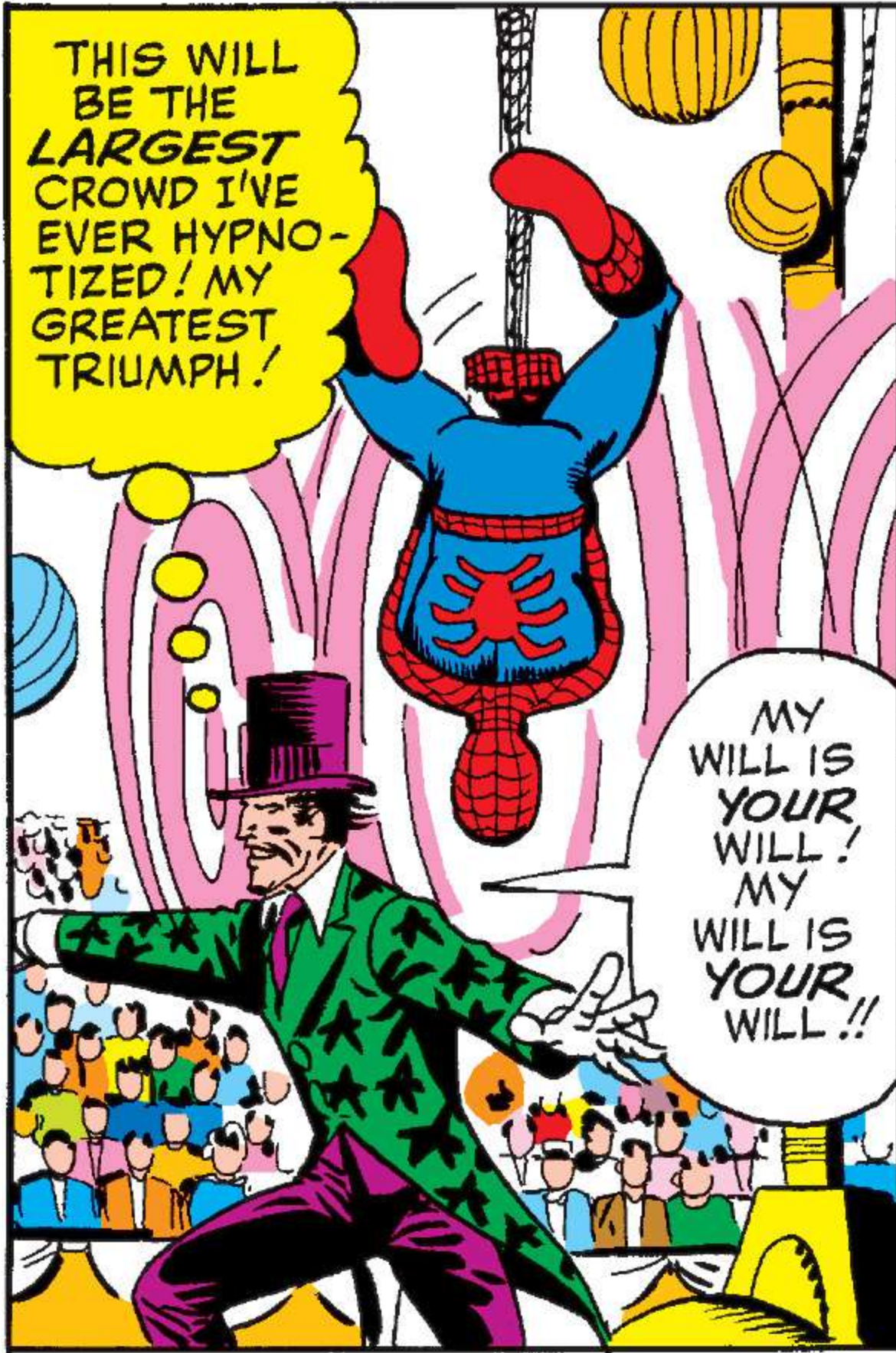
THOSE SWIRLING CIRCLES ON HIS HAT! THEY'RE MAKING ME DIZZY... DIZZY...

I AM THE *RING-MASTER*! MY WILL IS *YOUR* WILL! MY WILL IS *YOUR* WILL!!





NOW THAT **HE** IS UNDER MY CONTROL, I'LL FACE THE **AUDIENCE!** THIS IS MY **SUPREME** MOMENT!



THIS WILL BE THE **LARGEST** CROWD I'VE EVER HYPNOTIZED! MY GREATEST TRIUMPH!

MY WILL IS YOUR WILL! MY WILL IS YOUR WILL!!



THEN, WITHIN SPLIT-SECONDS, THE MOST INCREDIBLE FEAT OF MASS HALLUCINATION EVER RECORDED TAKES PLACE, AS THE ENTIRE AUDIENCE FALLS IN A HYPNOTIC TRANCE!



I'VE **DONE** IT! NOW QUICKLY, GO AMONG THEM AND TAKE THEIR **WALLETS**, AND THEIR **JEWELRY!** **HURRY!!**

THE SPELL LASTS ONLY FOR ONE HOUR... AND WHEN THEY AWAKE, THEY WILL REMEMBER NOTHING! WHEN THEY FIND THEIR VALUABLES MISSING, THEY'LL SIMPLY BLAME IT ON PICKPOCKETS!!



BUT, THOUGH UNNOTICED IN THAT VAST AUDIENCE, ONE MAN IS **NOT** HYPNOTIZED!! ONE MAN DID NOT SEE THE SWIRLING CIRCLES IN THE RINGMASTER'S HAT... BECAUSE THAT MAN IS **BLIND!!**

INCREDIBLE! EVERY SINGLE SPECTATOR... IN A DEEP TRANCE!



MOVING WITH SURE CAT-LIKE GRACE, THE FEARLESS ADVENTURER SILENTLY DROPS TO THE CORRIDOR BELOW!

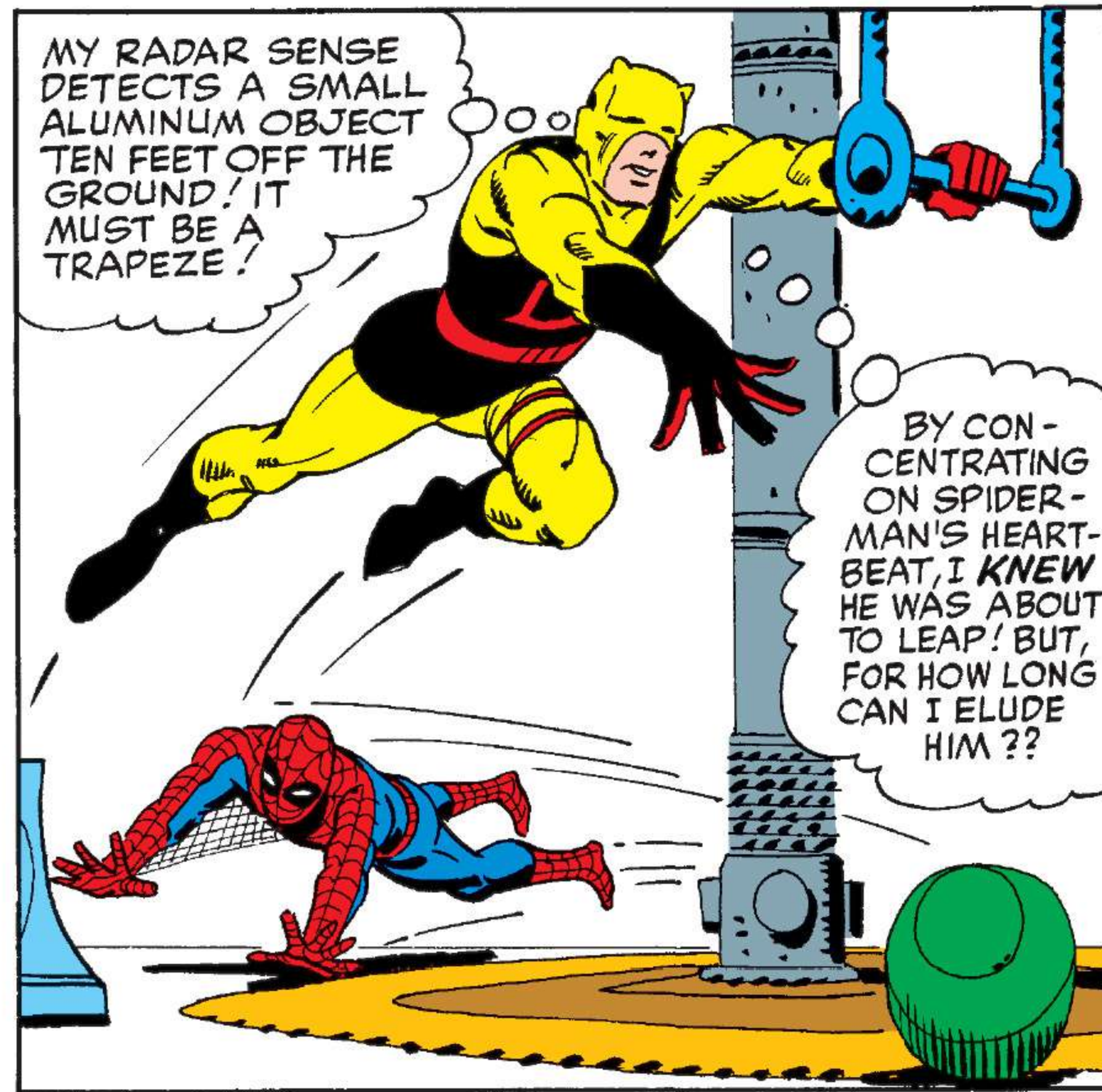
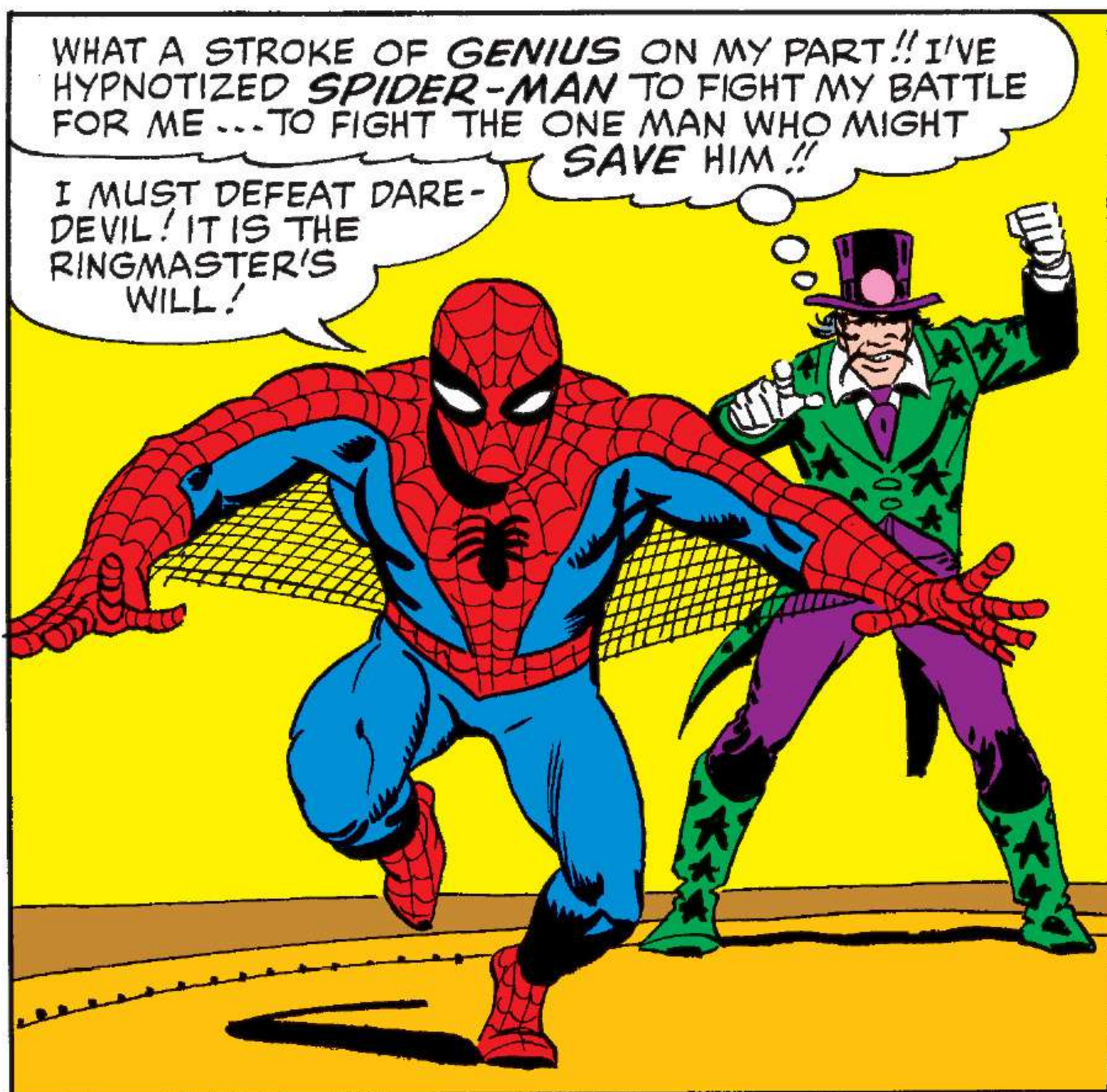


AND, WITHIN SECONDS... UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, I'LL HAVE TO BATTLE THE ENTIRE CIRCUS CAST!!

SO I MAY AS WELL GET AN EARLY START!



DAREDEVIL!! WHAT'S **WRONG??** WHY ISN'T HE GOING INTO A TRANCE?!



AND SO, THE TWO MASKED ADVENTURERS BEGIN THEIR BATTLE... A BATTLE CAUSED BY THE RUTHLESS POWER OF THE **RINGMASTER!**

DAREDEVIL IS MUCH **FASTER** THAN I WOULD HAVE GUESSED!

HIS STRENGTH IS ASTOUNDING!! IT'S MANY TIMES THAT OF A NORMAL MAN!



I CAN'T POSSIBLY MATCH HIS OWN SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH! MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO **OUT-THINK** HIM!!

I HAVE SAVED THE RINGMASTER... AS HE COMMANDED!



STILL IN A HYPNOTIC TRANCE, NOT ACTING UNDER HIS OWN WILL, SPIDEY WAITS FOR FURTHER ORDERS AFTER HE HAS DONE WHAT HE WAS TOLD TO...

DON'T **STOP**, YOU FOOL! DAREDEVIL ISN'T BEATEN YET!!

LUCKY FOR **ME** SPIDER-MAN CAN'T THINK FOR HIMSELF!



THE ADVANTAGE IS **MINE** WHILE HE'S MOVING UNDER A HYPNOTIC SPELL!

AFTER HIM! DAREDEVIL MUST BE DEFEATED!!

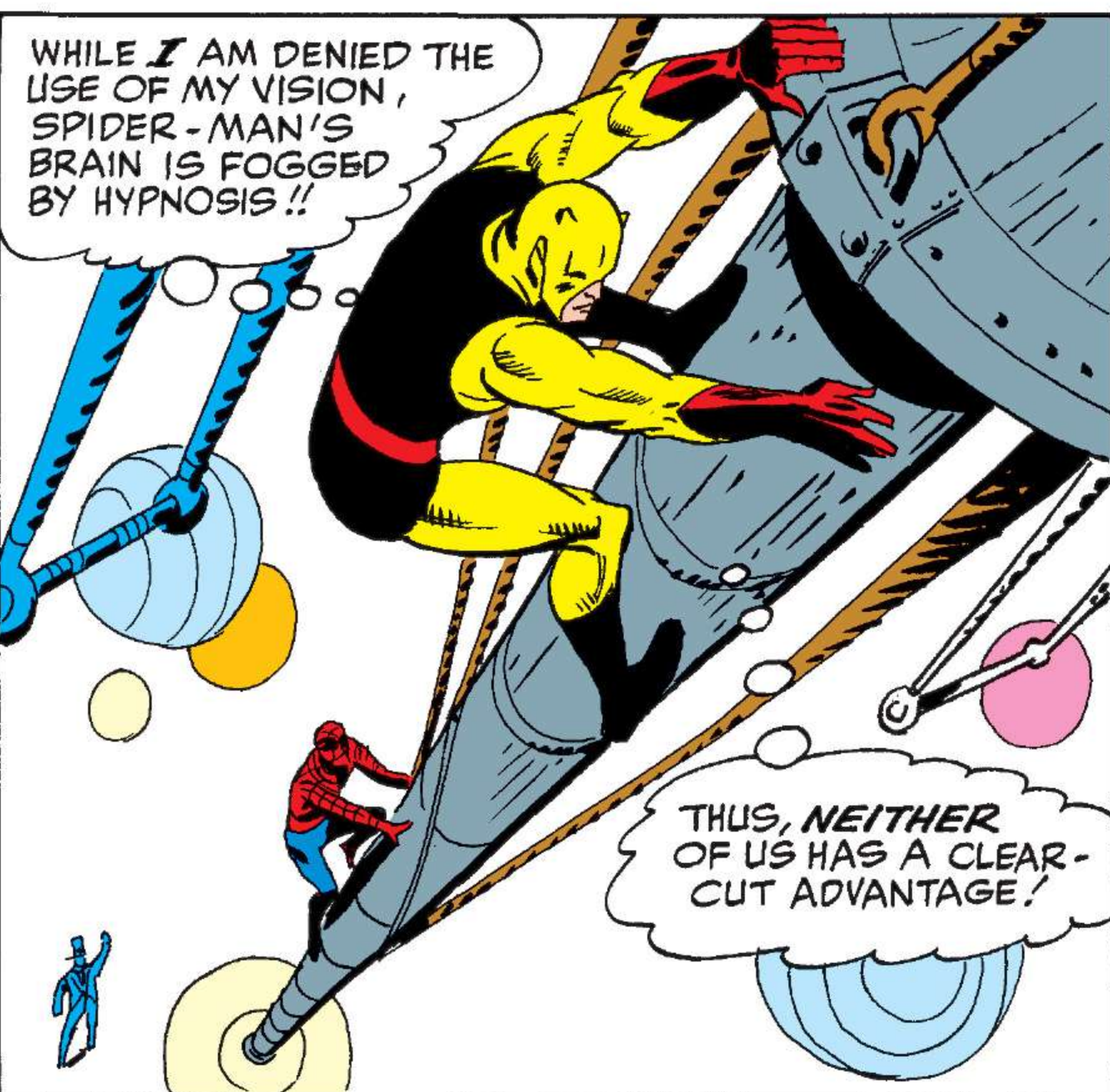
DAREDEVIL MUST BE DEFEATED!

THIS POLE MUST LEAD TO THE TRAPEZE PLATFORM! I'LL HAVE ROOM TO MANEUVER UP THERE!



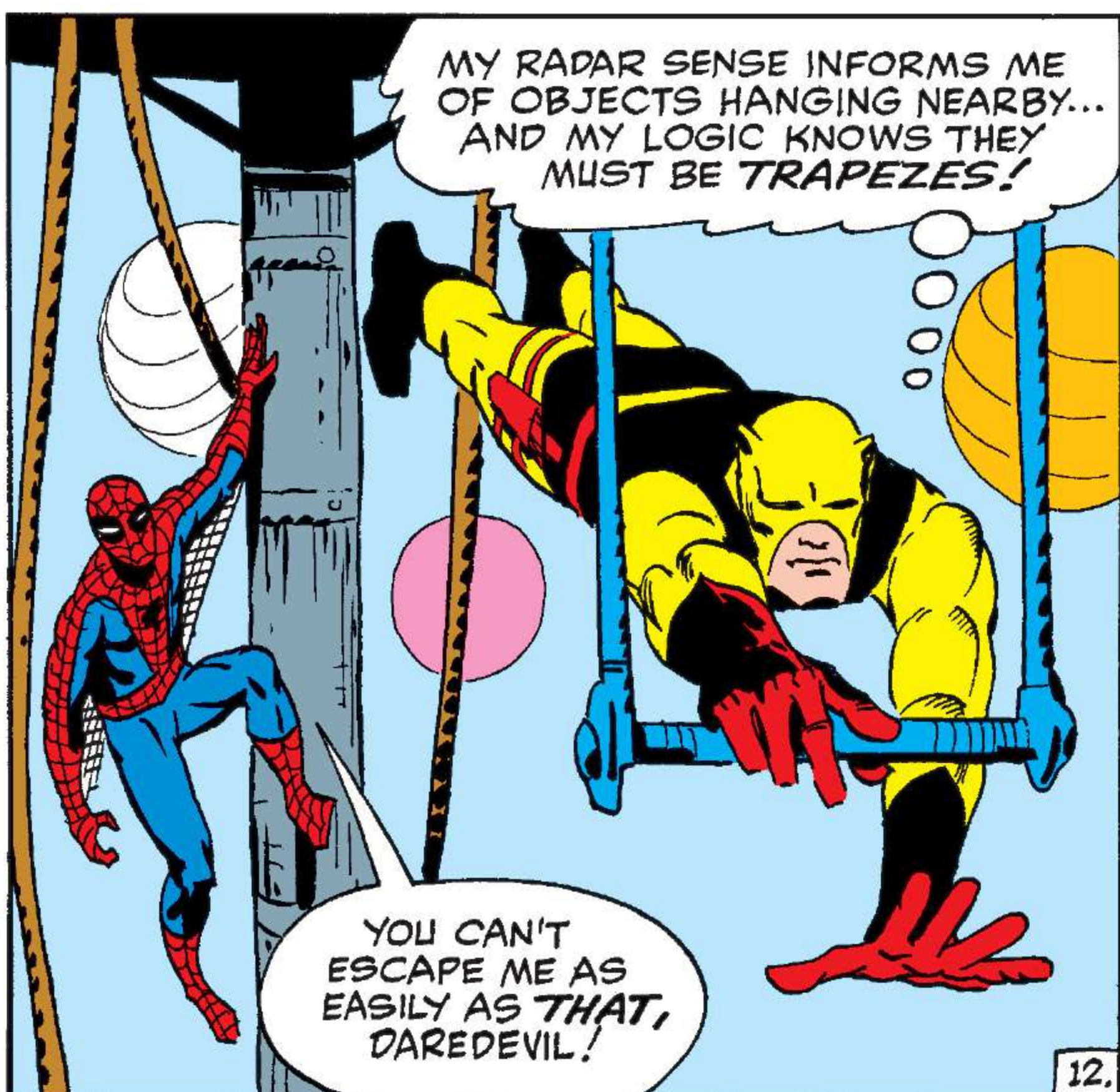
WHILE **I** AM DENIED THE USE OF MY VISION, SPIDER-MAN'S BRAIN IS FOGGED BY HYPNOSIS!!

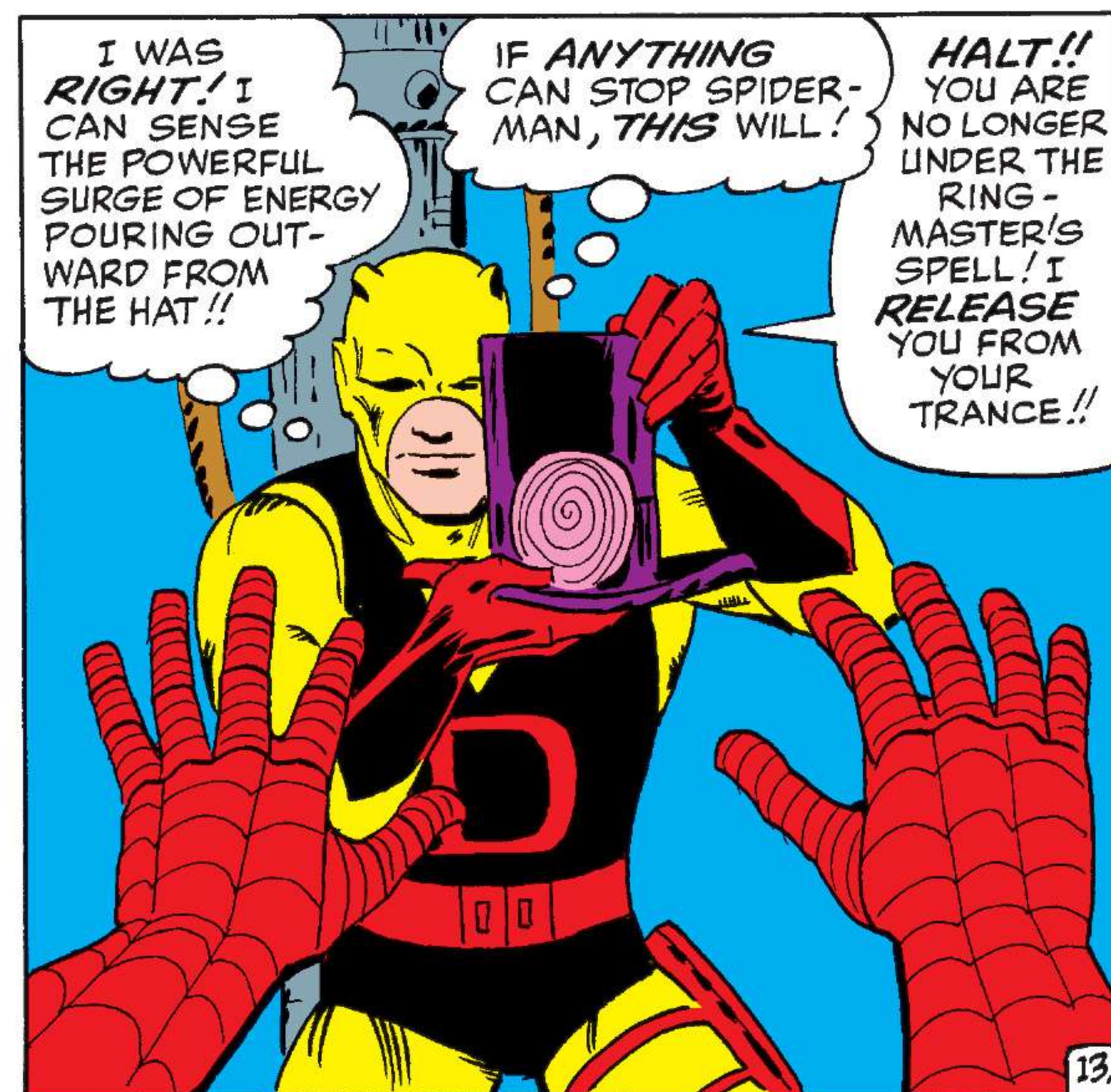
THUS, **NEITHER** OF US HAS A CLEAR-CUT ADVANTAGE!

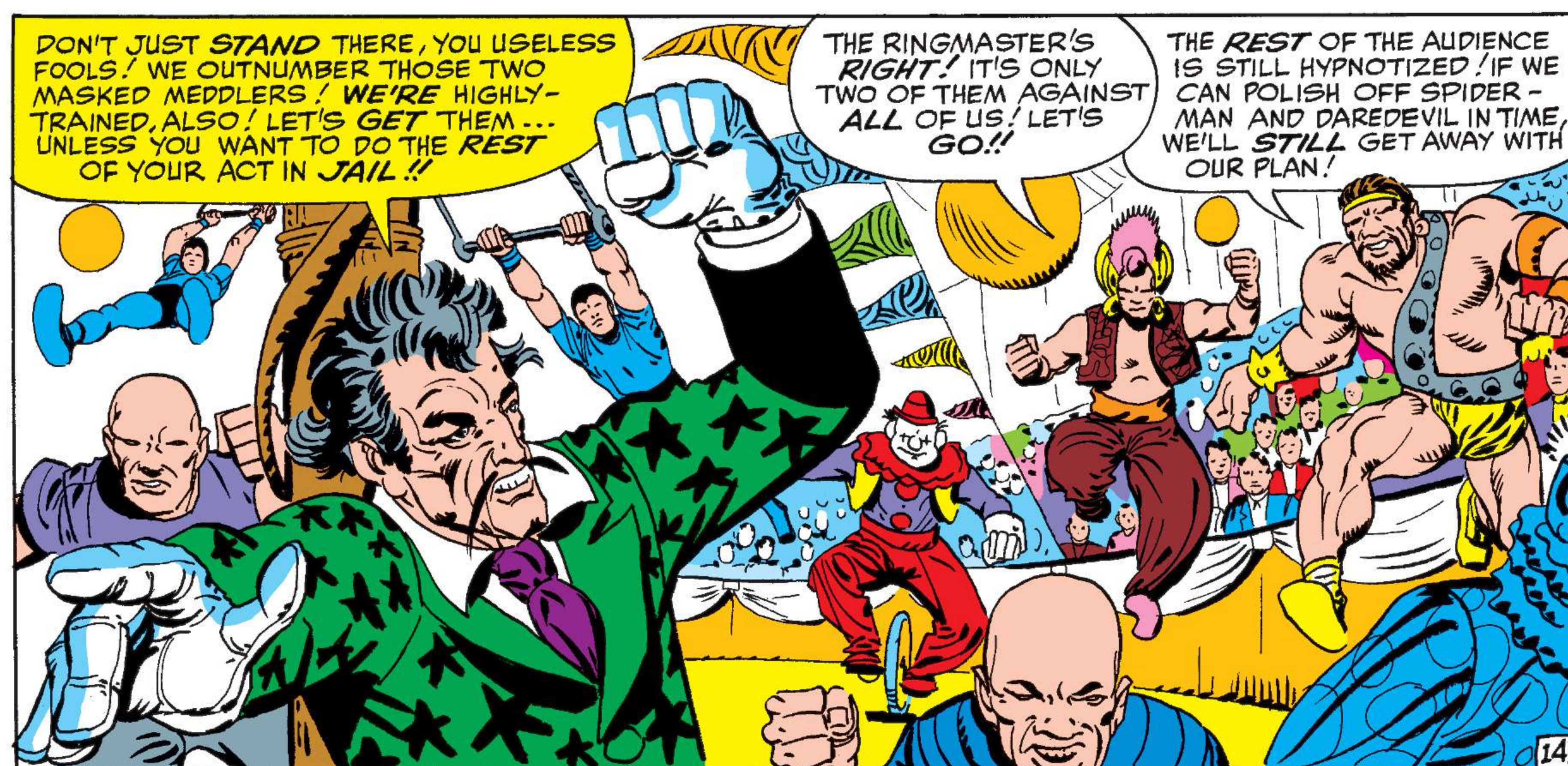
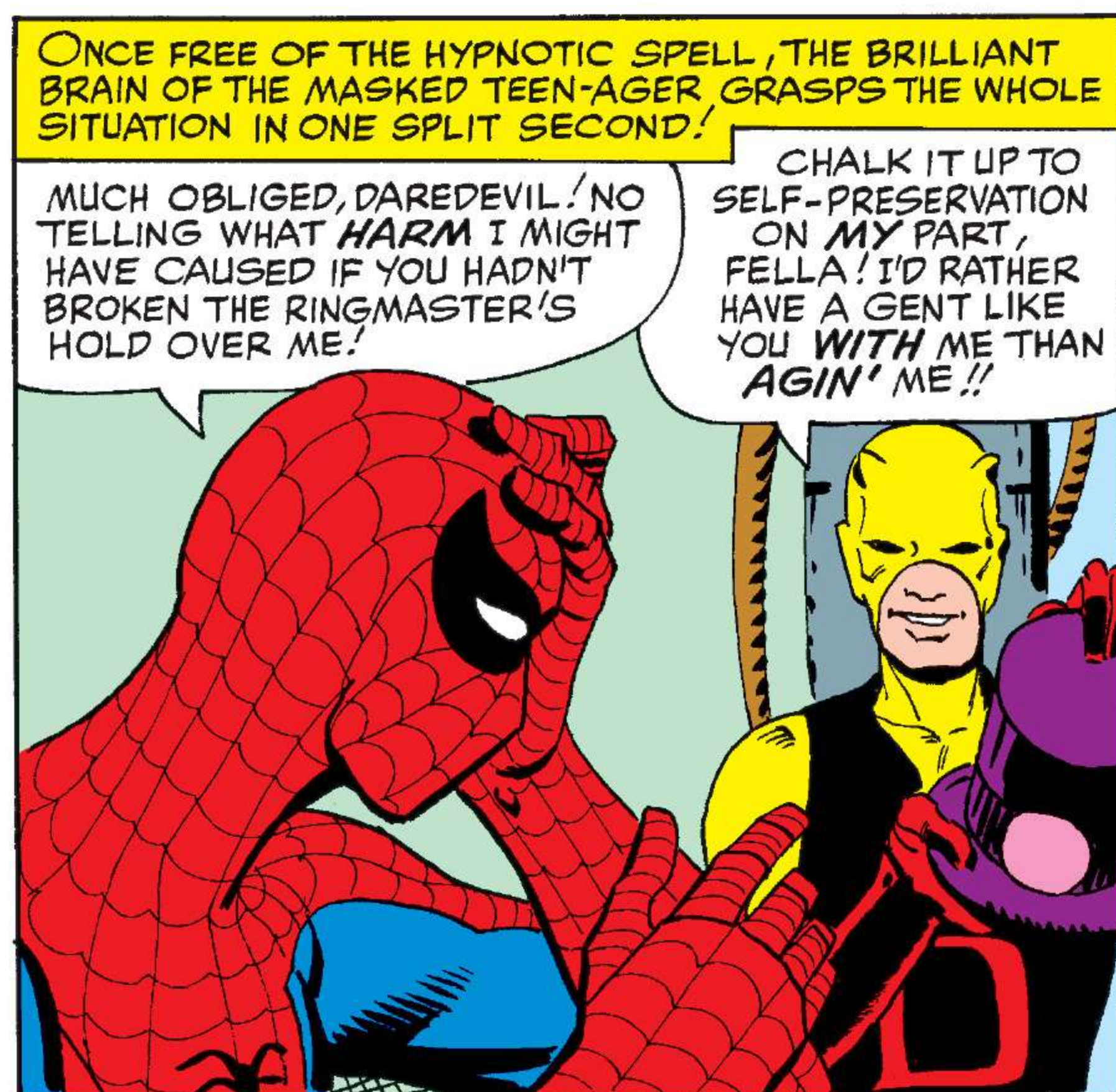
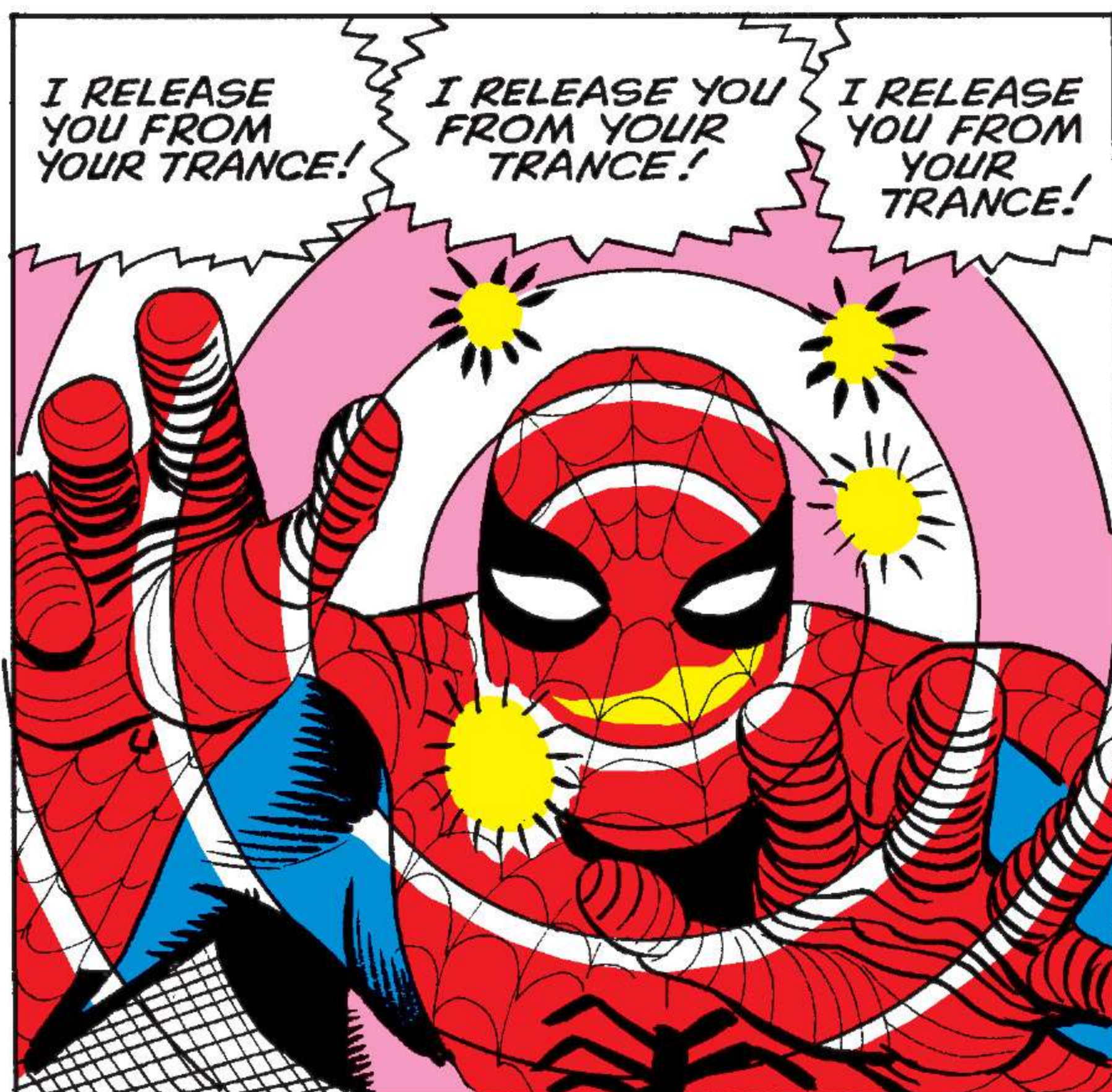


MY RADAR SENSE INFORMS ME OF OBJECTS HANGING NEARBY... AND MY LOGIC KNOWS THEY MUST BE **TRAPEZES!**

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME AS EASILY AS **THAT**, DAREDEVIL!







SUDDENLY, THE SIGHTLESS DAREDEVIL CLUTCHES HIS KNEES, AND IN ONE LIGHTNING-LIKE MANEUVER, SCATTERS THE TIGHTLY BLUNCHED PERFORMERS LIKE TEN-PINS!

CLUNK!

UH-OH! THE SOUND OF SOMETHING LARGE AND LIGHT BEING GENTLY WAFED DOWN TOWARDS ME! IT CAN ONLY BE A SAFETY NET!!

THERE'S TENSION AT BOTH ENDS... TWO TRAPEZE ARTISTS ARE TRYING TO SNAG ME INSIDE THE NET! WELL, I'LL JUST GO ALONG FOR THE RIDE!

YOU AND YOUR CRUMMY IDEAS! HOW CAN WE WRAP HIM IN THE NET WHEN HE'S HOLDIN' ON TO ONE END OF IT!?

DAREDEVIL!! YOU'VE DONE YOUR SHARE! IT'S MY FIGHT NOW! C'MON DOWN!!

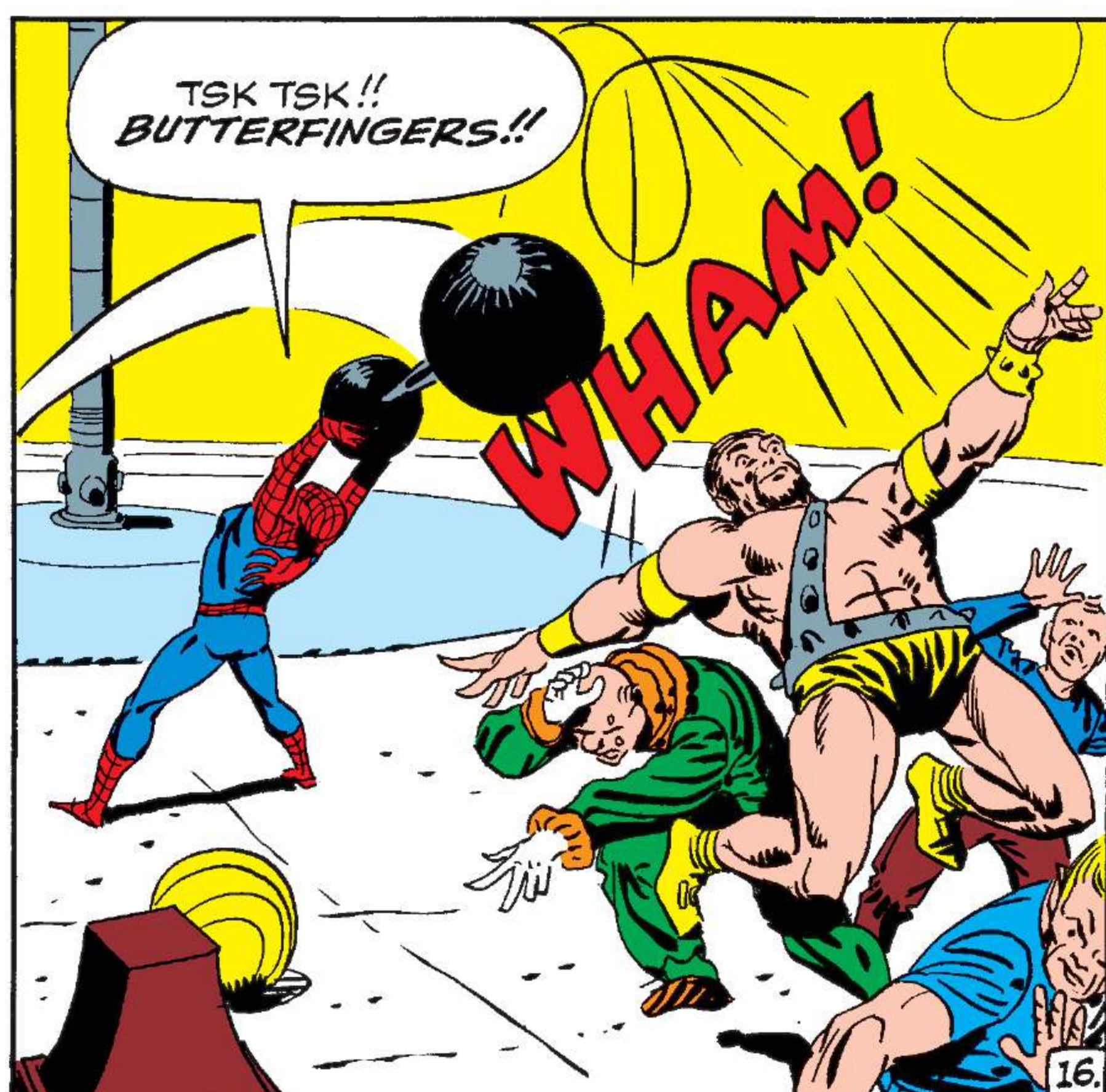
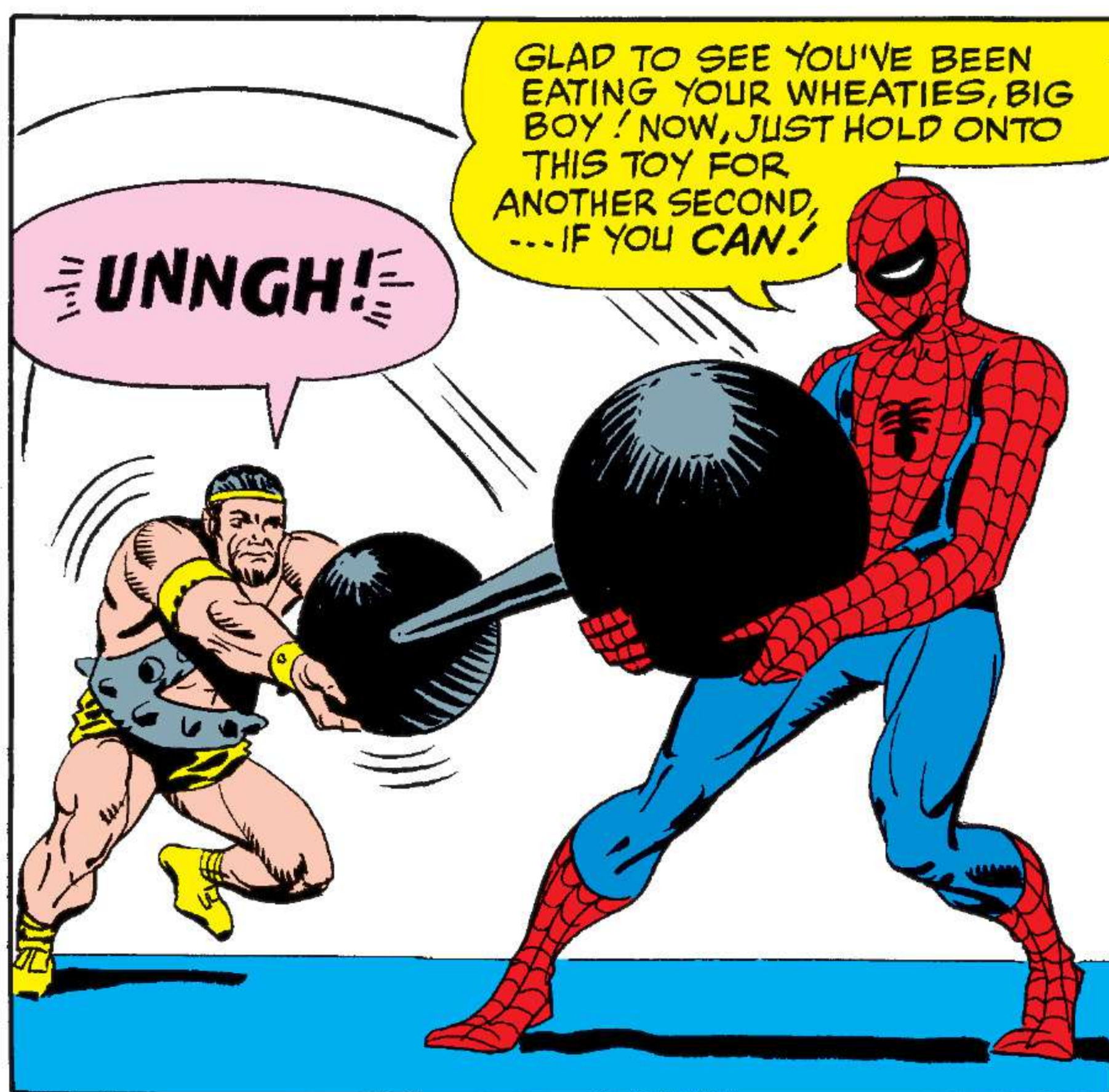
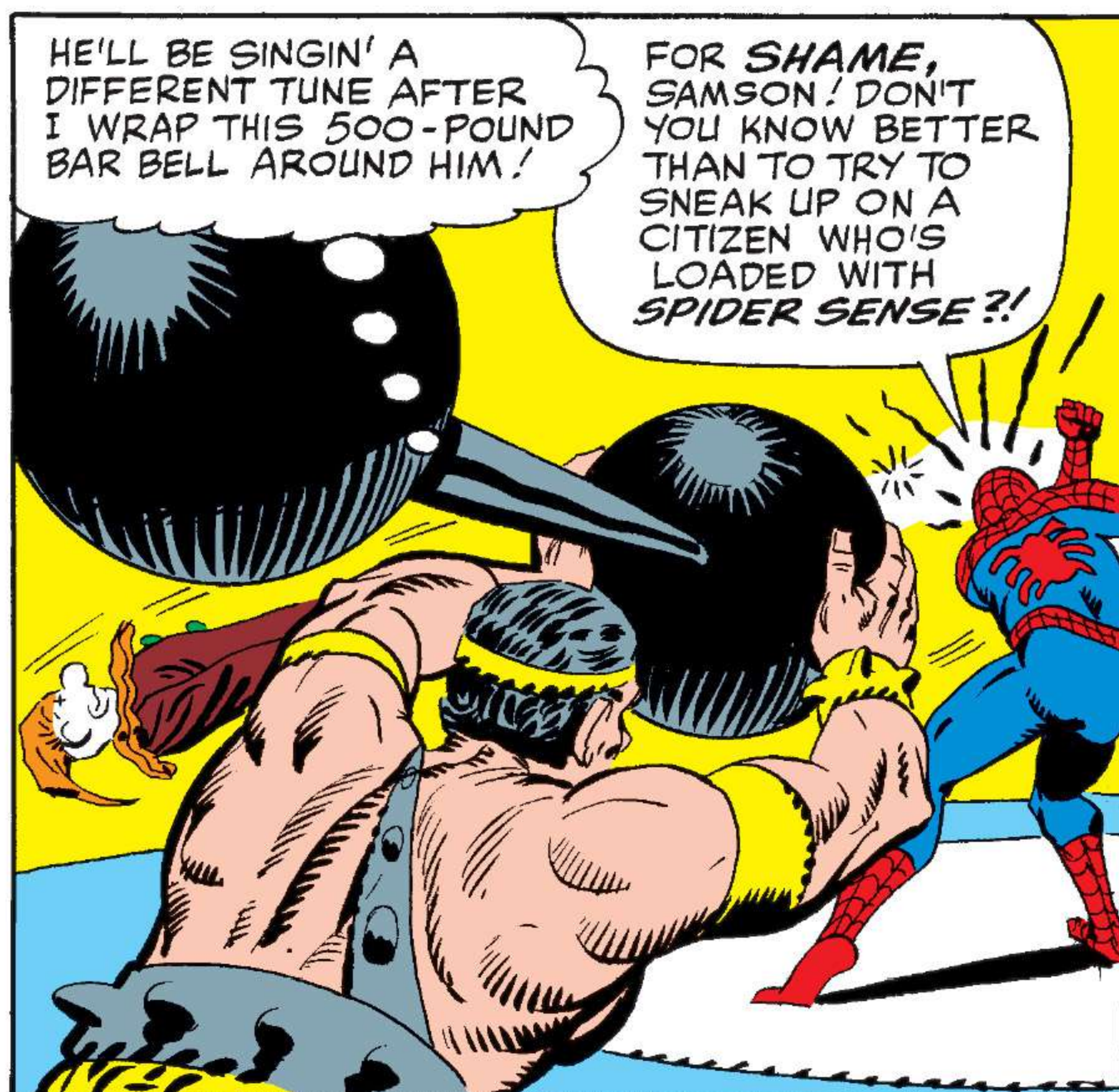
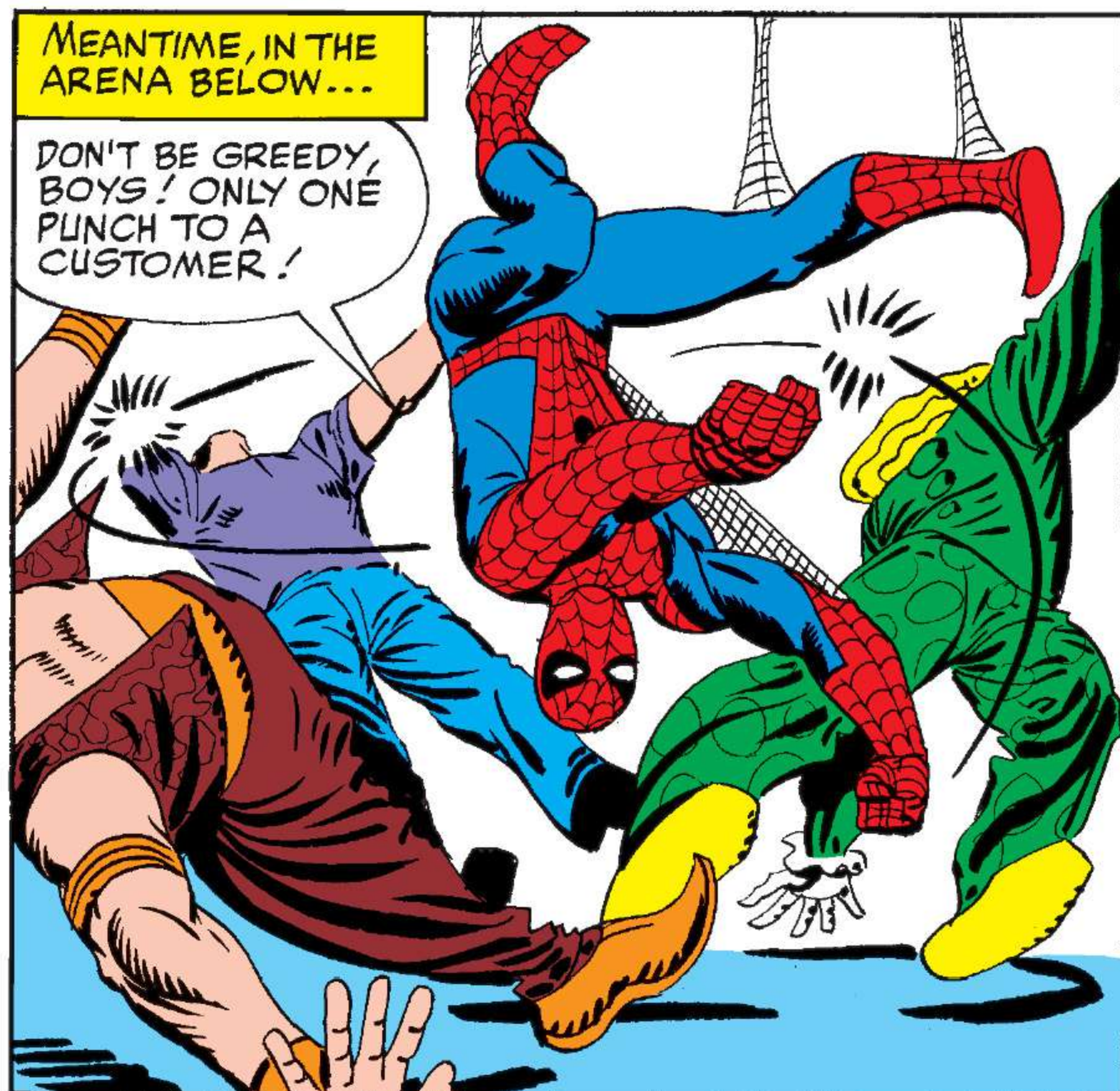
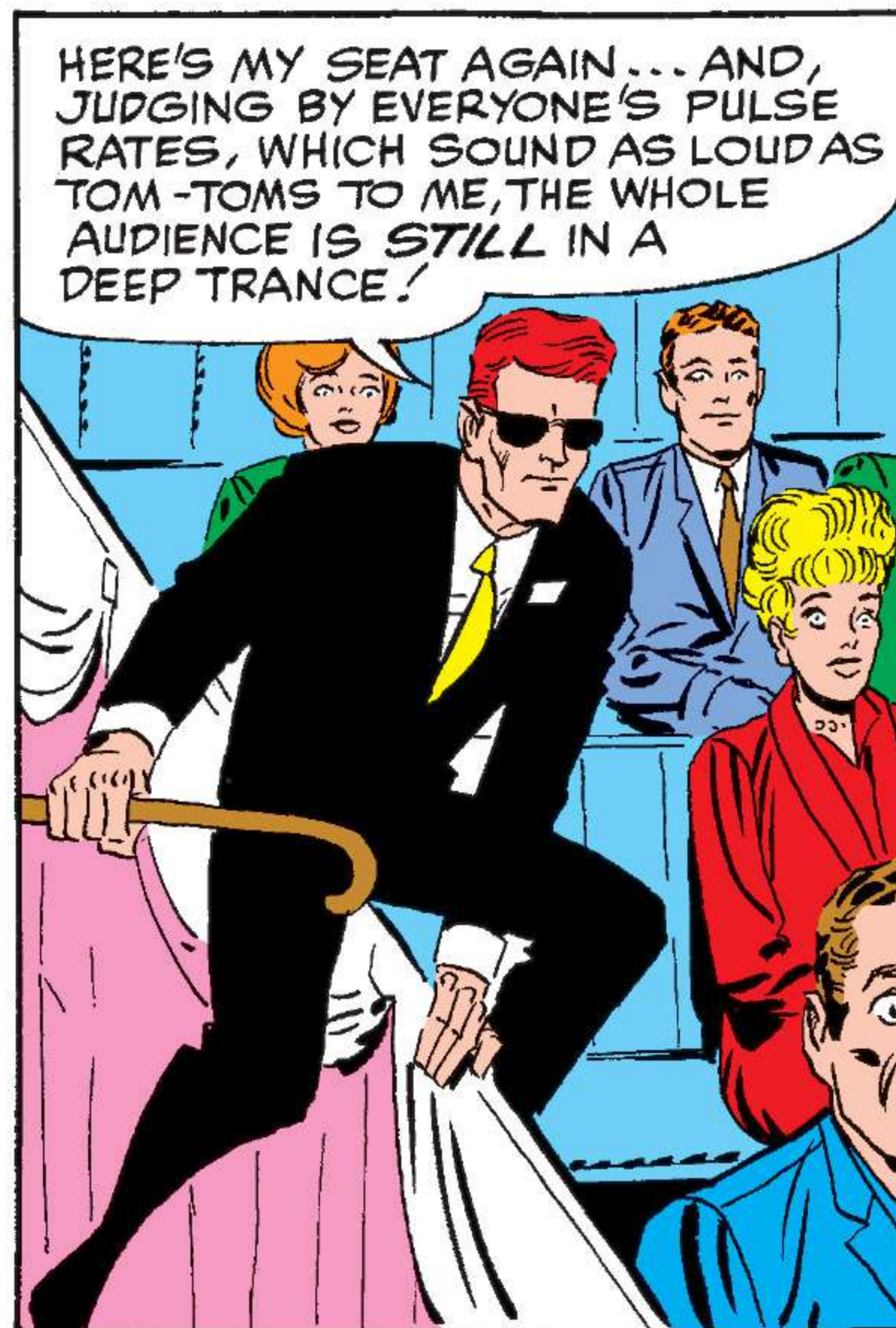
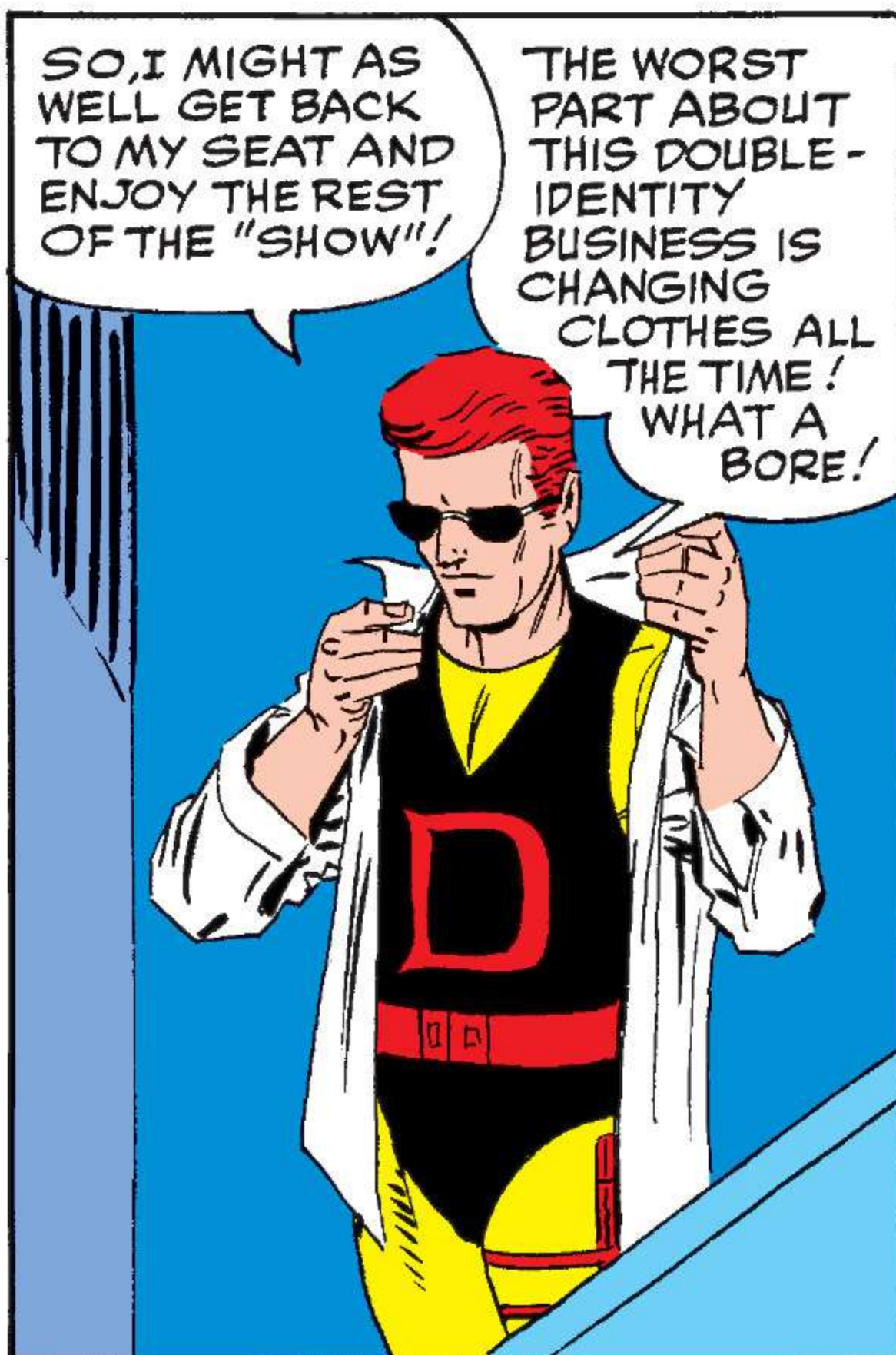
OKAY, SPIDEY, THEY'RE ALL YOURS!! BUT IF YOU NEED ME, JUST WIGGLE YOUR WEB, FELLA!

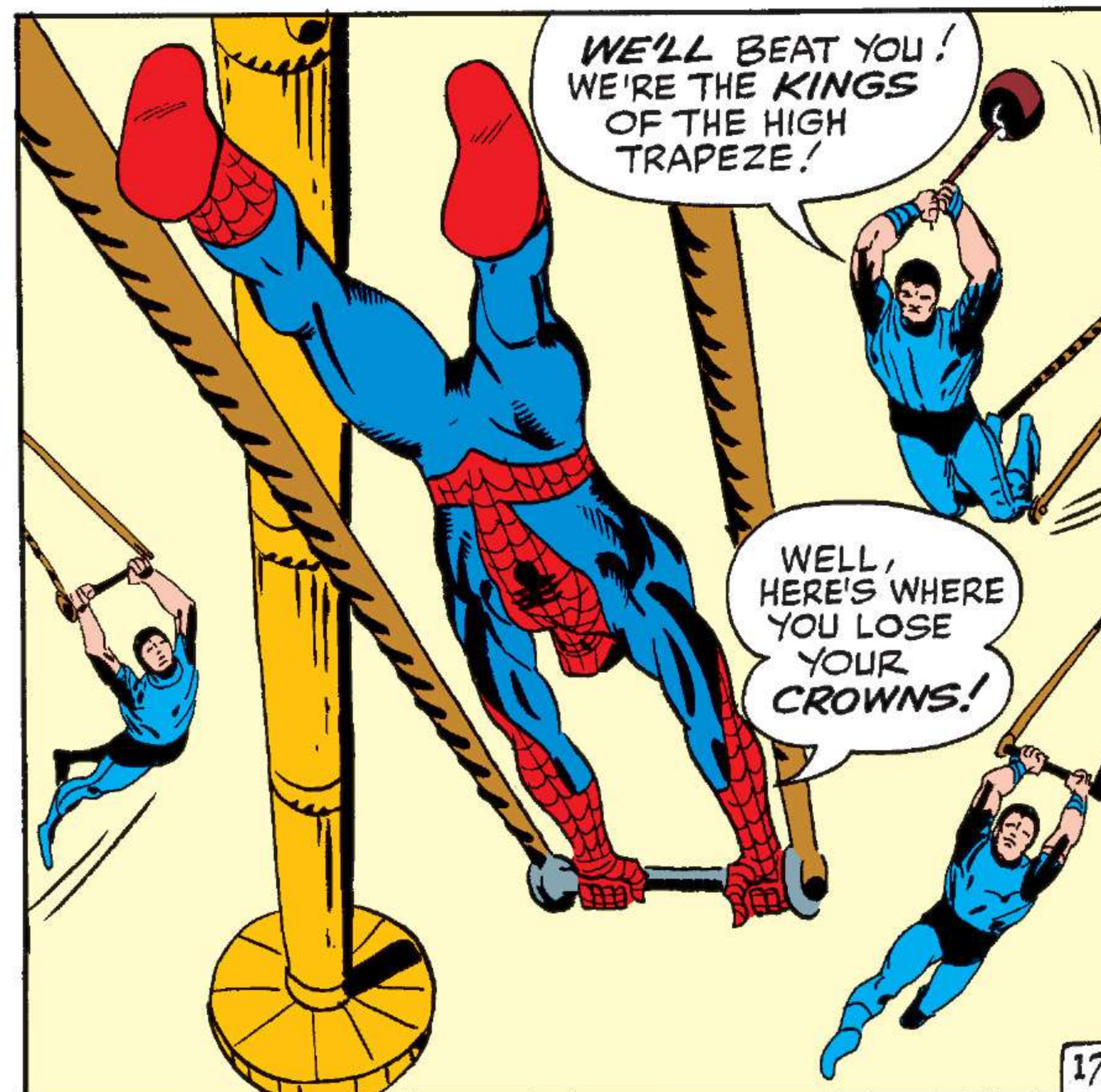
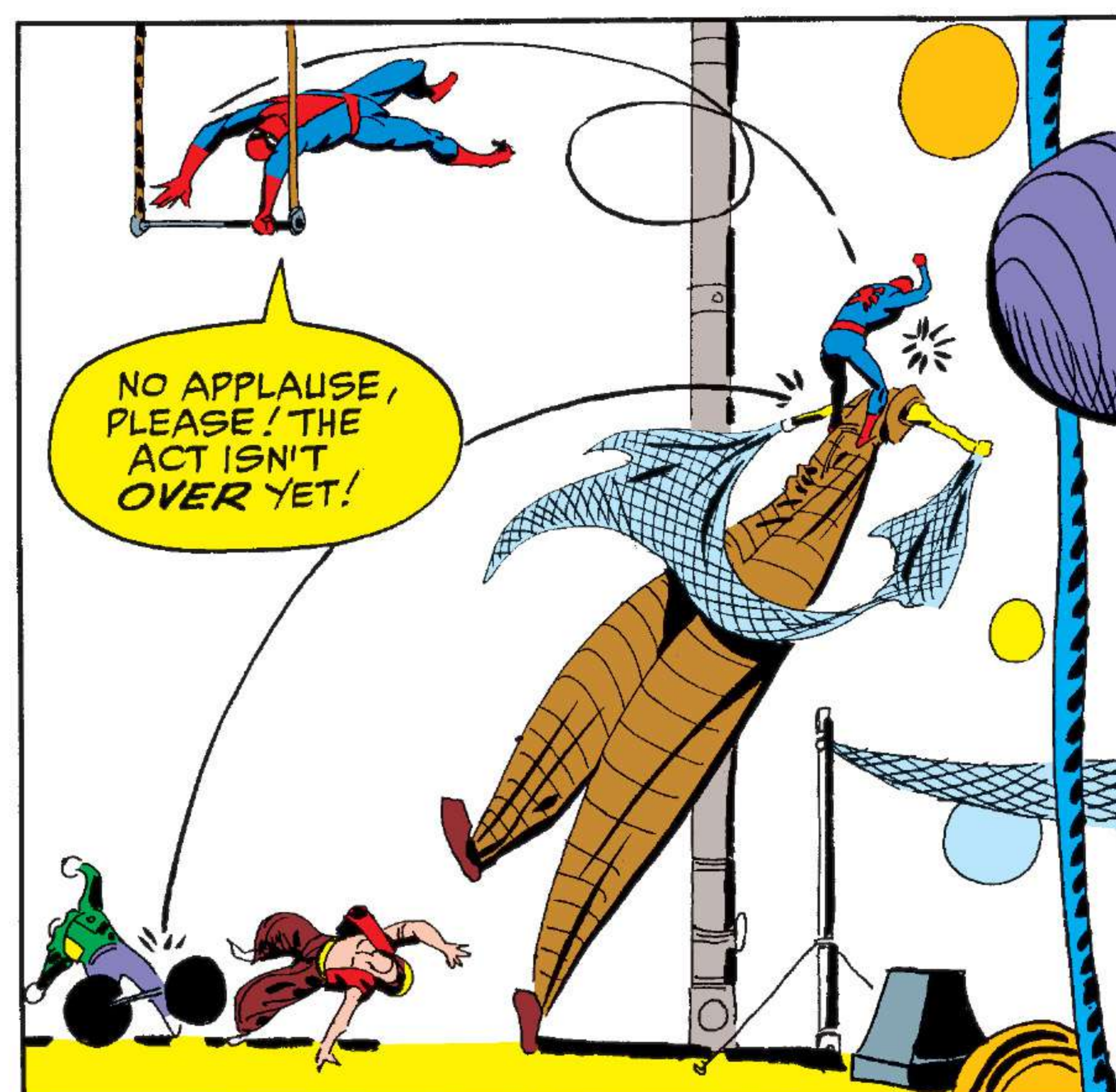
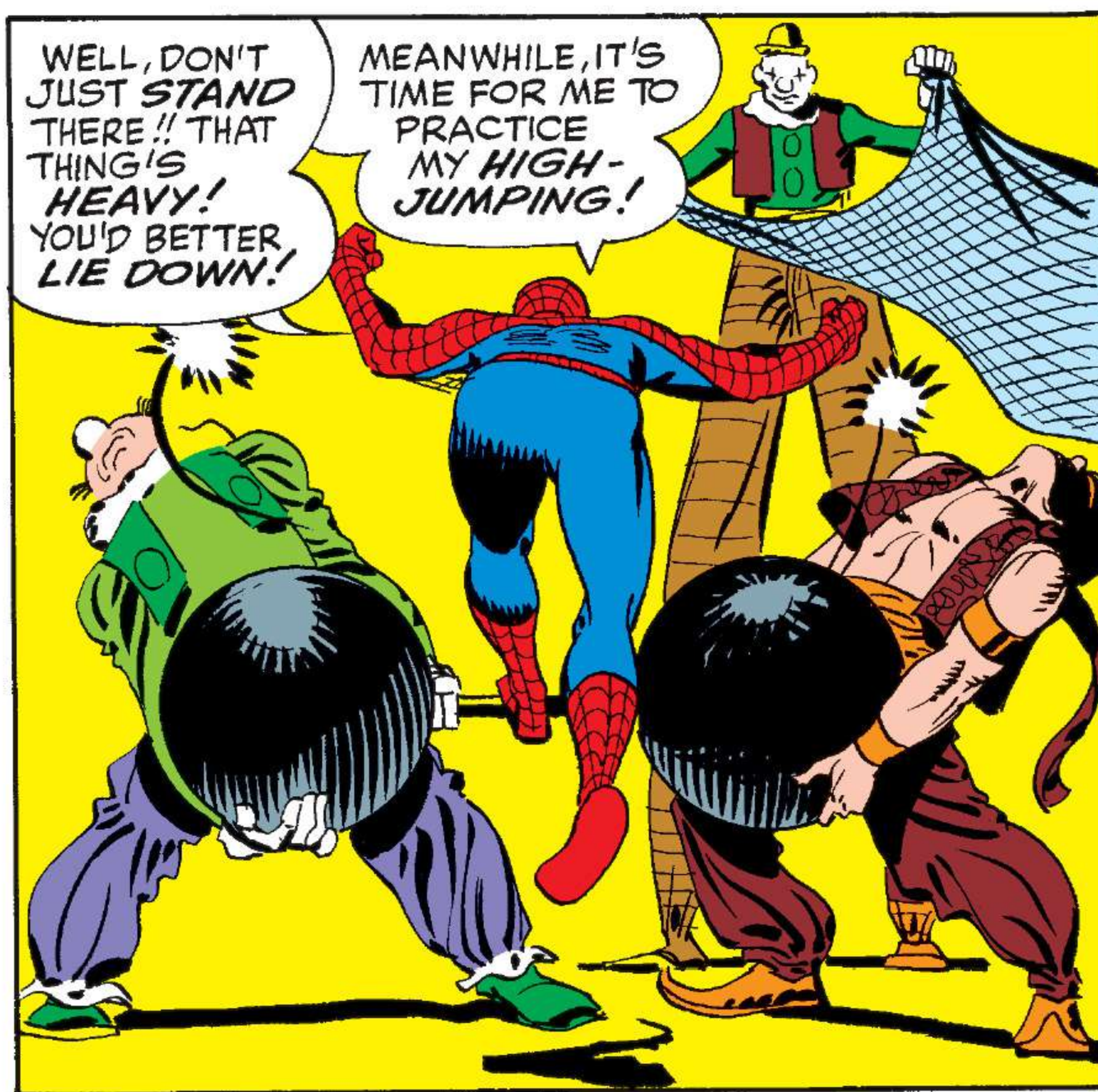
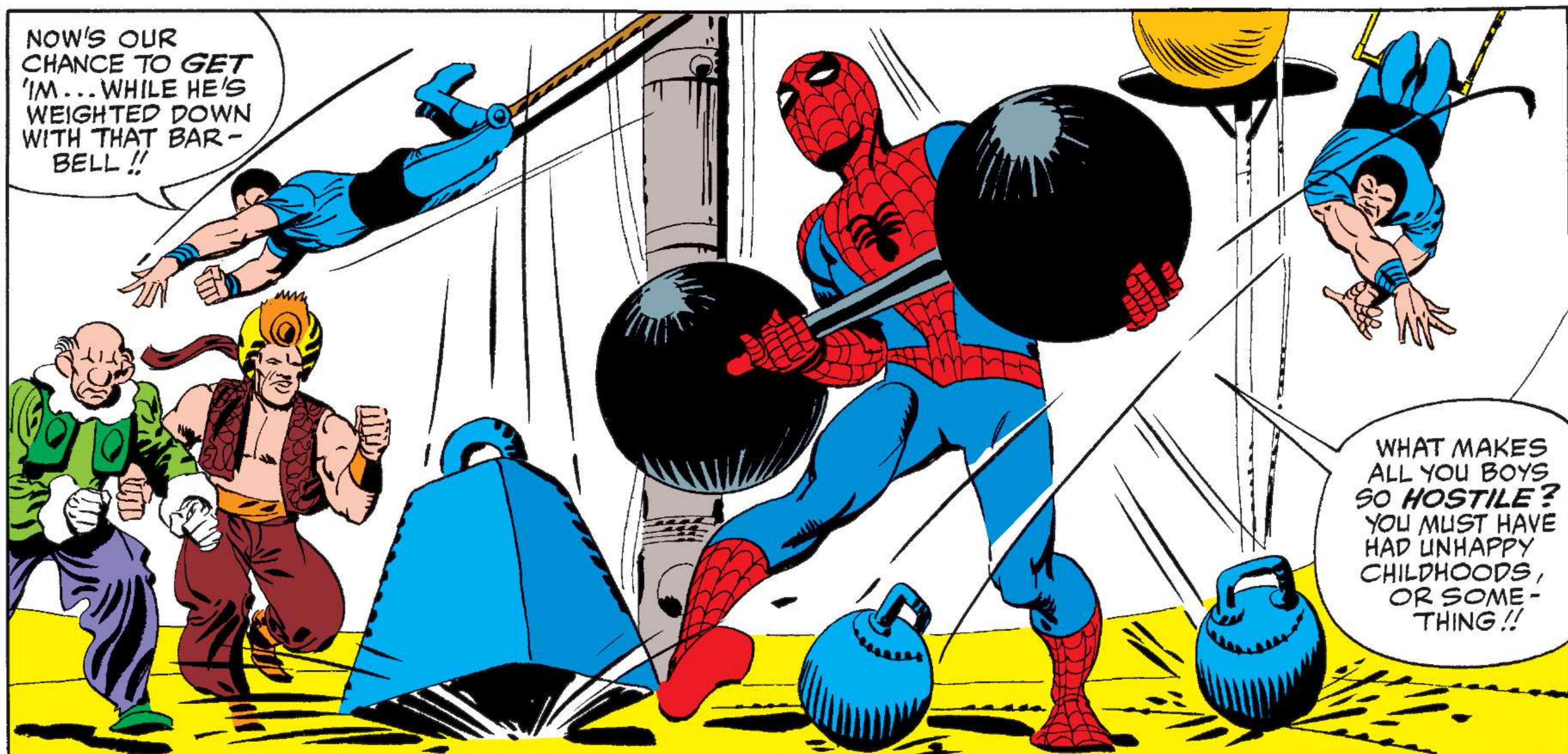
AND NOW, BOYS AND GIRLS OF ALL AGES, WE PREEESENT THE MAIN ATTRACTION... NAMELY, THAT LI'L OL' WEB-SPINNER, ME!

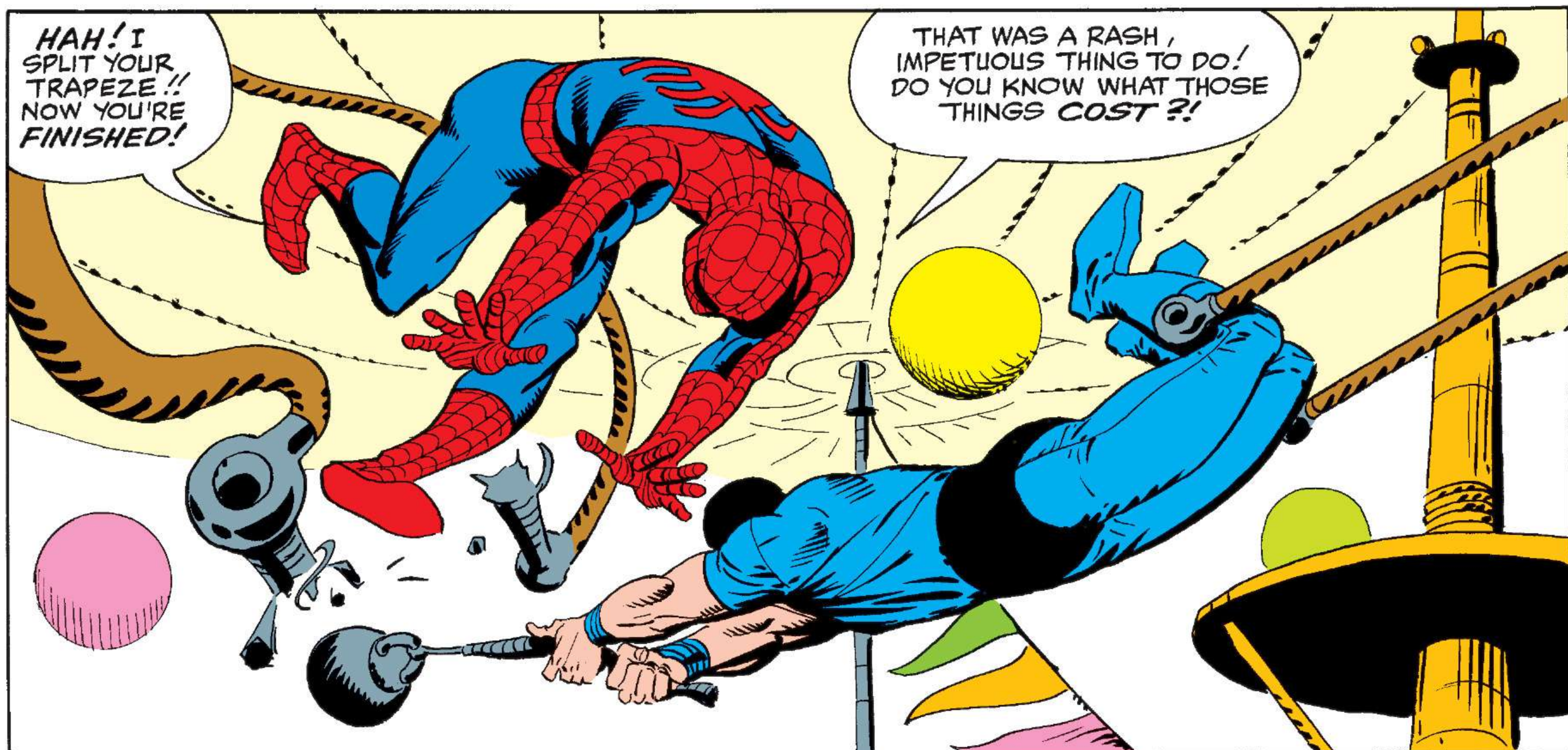
CAREFUL! DON'T BE OVER-EAGER! THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF ME TO GO AROUND!

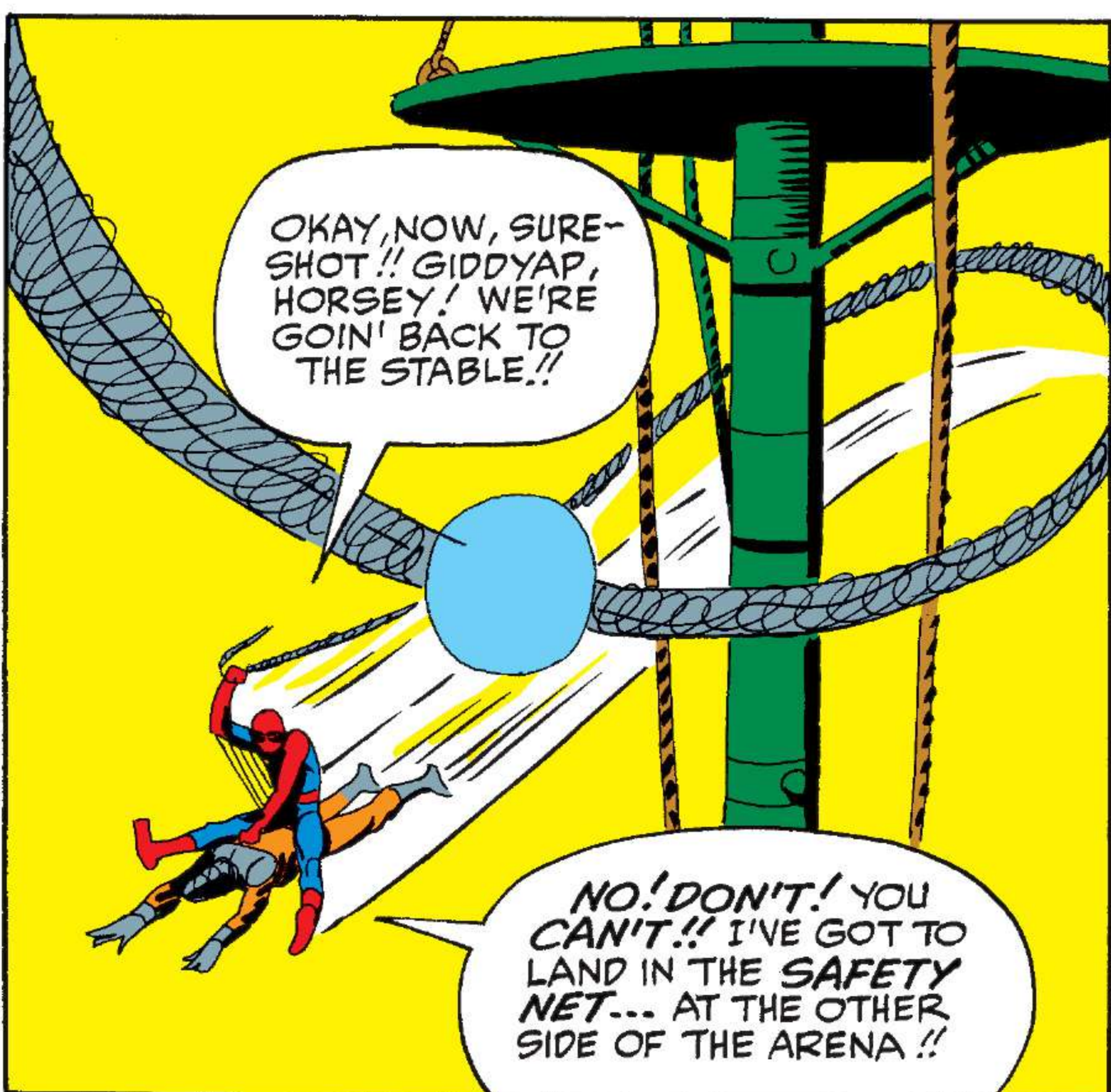
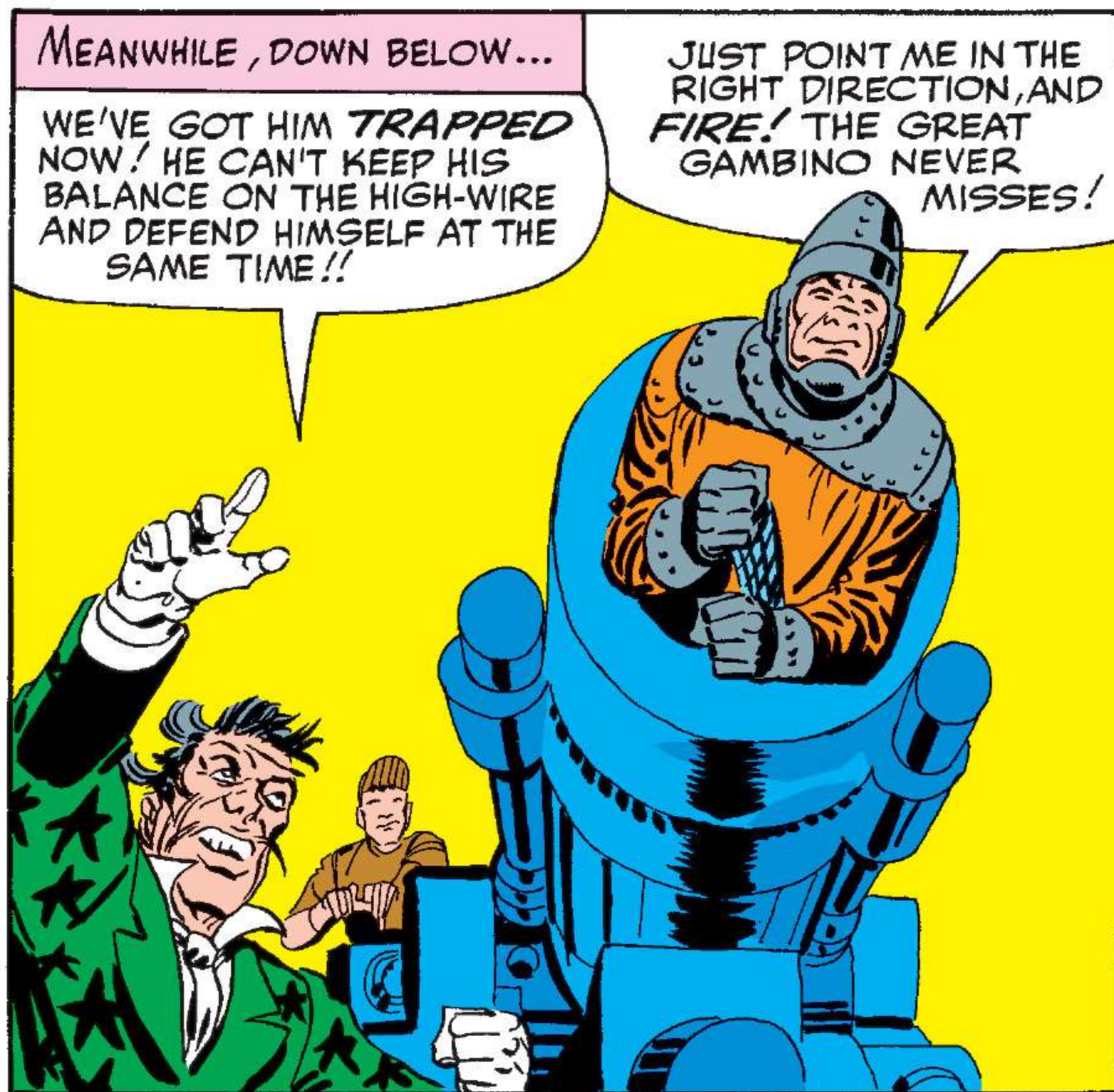
YOU'LL EACH GET A CHANCE TO BE SLAPPED SILLY BY SPIDEY!

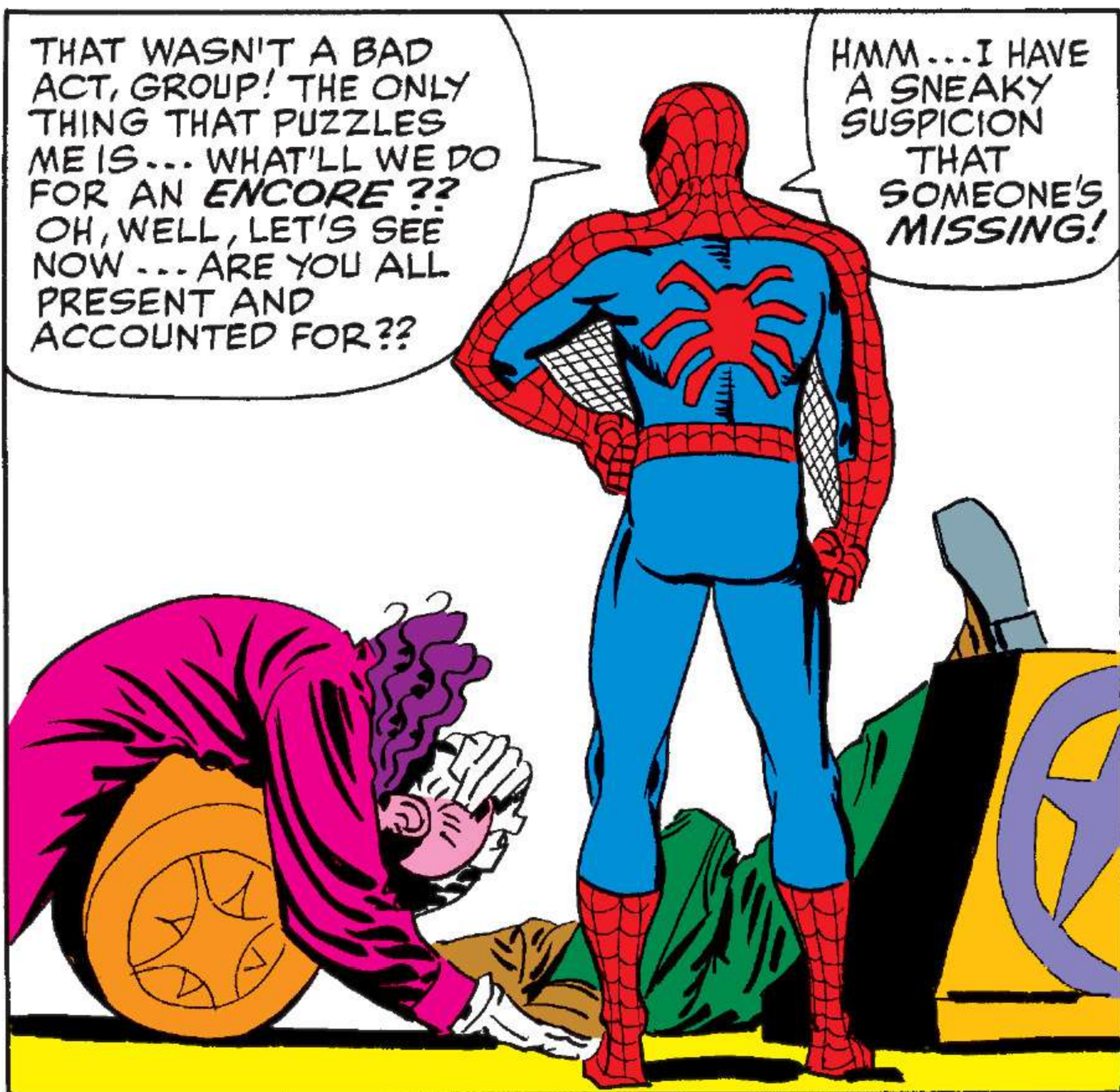
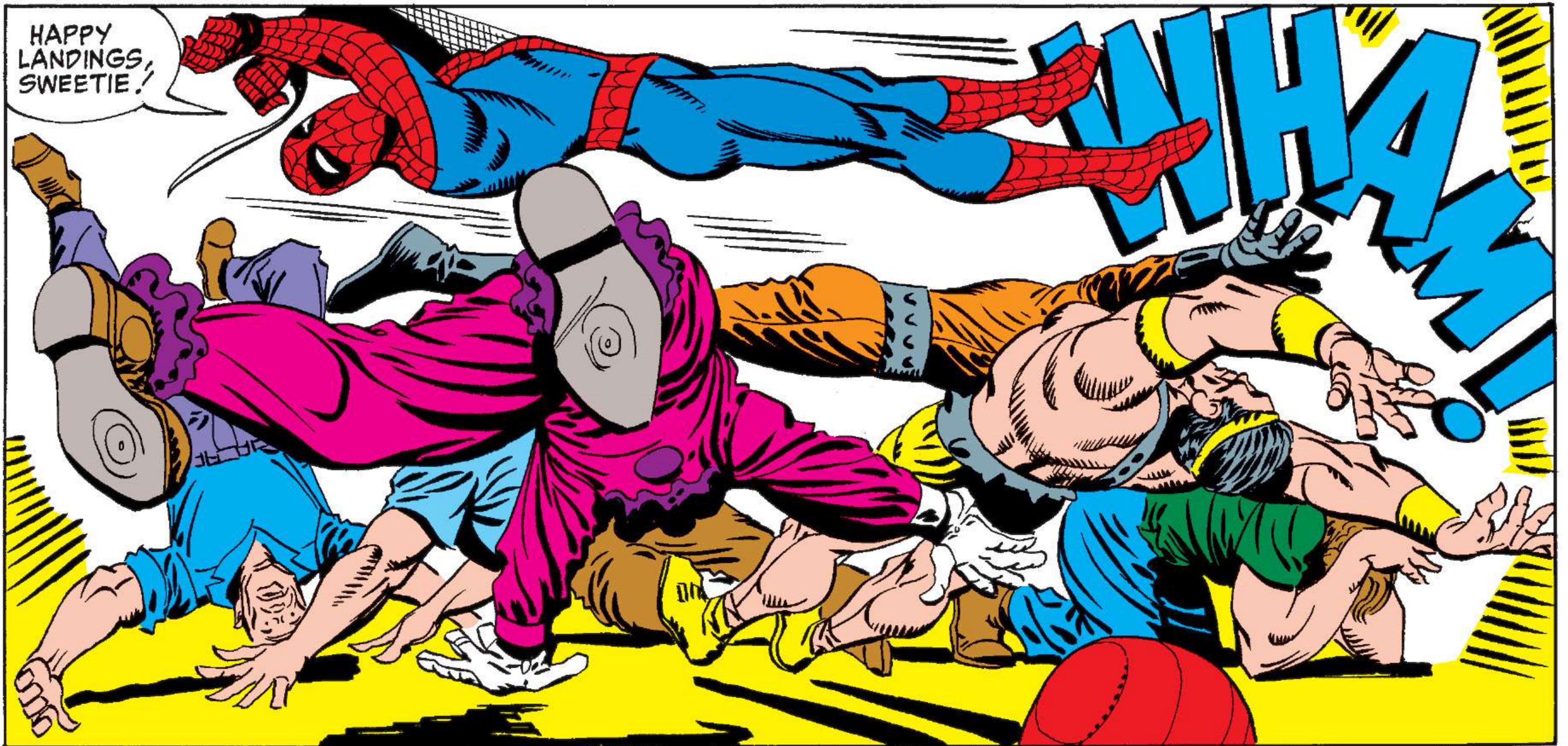
THUNK!











THAT WASN'T A BAD ACT, GROUP! THE ONLY THING THAT PUZZLES ME IS... WHAT'LL WE DO FOR AN *ENCORE* ?? OH, WELL, LET'S SEE NOW... ARE YOU ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR??

HMM... I HAVE A SNEAKY SUSPICION THAT SOMEONE'S *MISSING*!

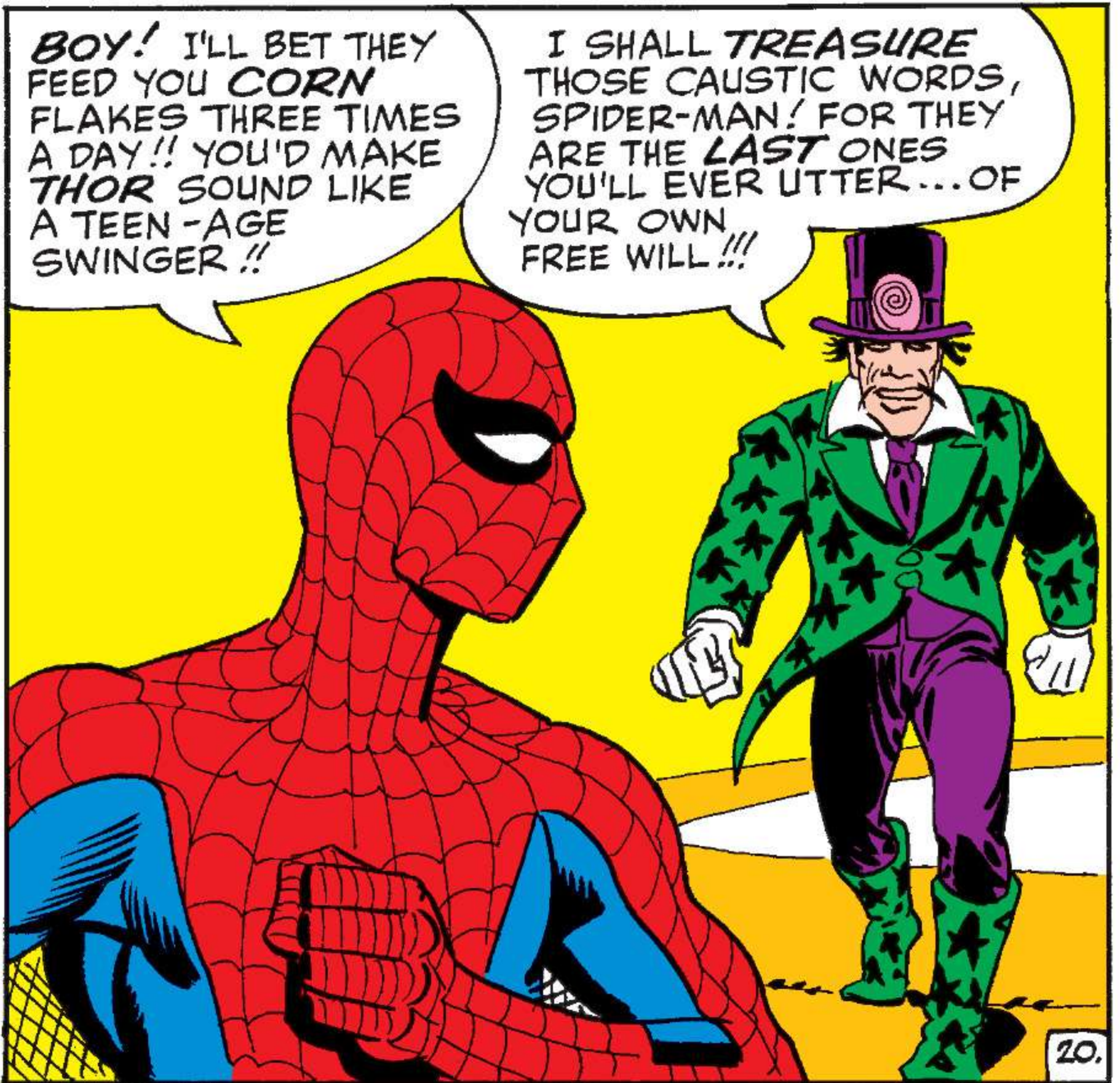


AND THERE HE IS!! NOW I KNOW HOW YOU STAY SO *SLIM*, RINGY! YOU'RE ALWAYS *RUNNING*!

MY HAT!! ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON IT, I'LL HAVE SPIDER-MAN UNDER MY CONTROL AGAIN! I'M NOT BEATEN *YET*!

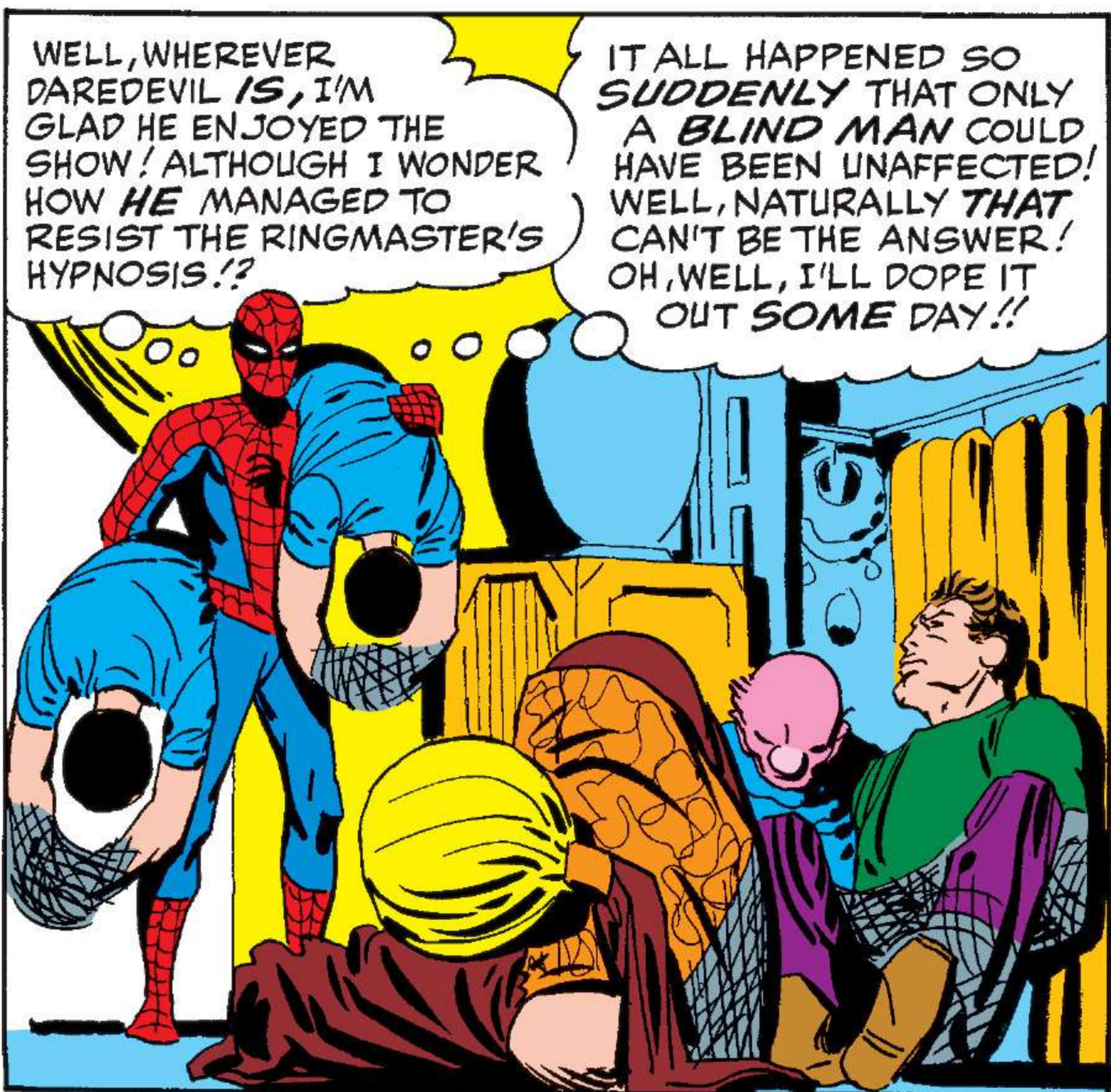
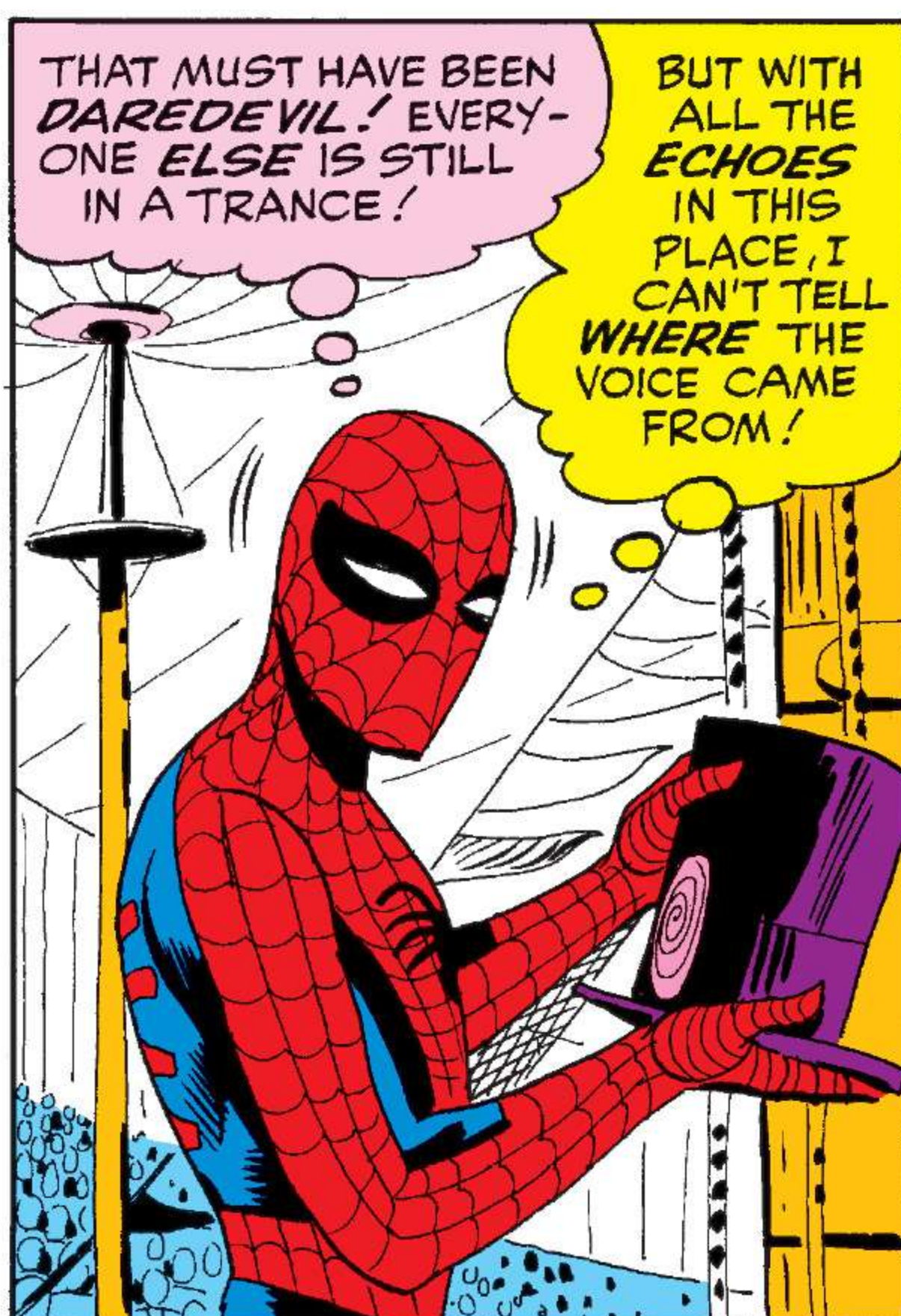
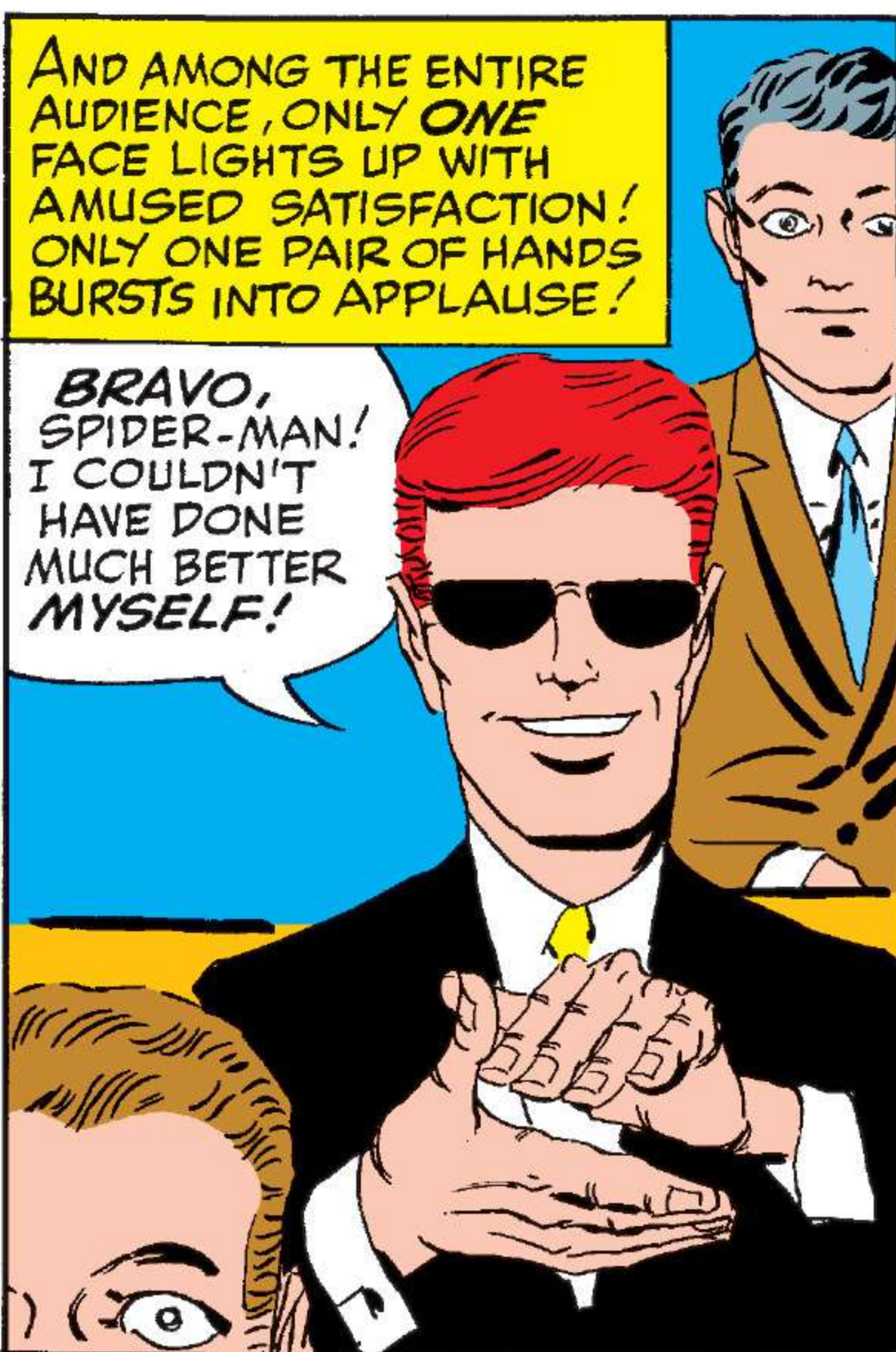


AND *NOW*, YOU BRASH, BOASTFUL, BRAZEN BOOR!! NOW YOU'LL *PAY* FOR YOUR TAUNTS AND *INSOLENCE*!!



BOY! I'LL BET THEY FEED YOU *CORN* FLAKES THREE TIMES A DAY!! YOU'D MAKE *THOR* SOUND LIKE A TEEN-AGE SWINGER!!

I SHALL *TREASURE* THOSE CAUSTIC WORDS, SPIDER-MAN! FOR THEY ARE THE *LAST* ONES YOU'LL EVER UTTER... OF YOUR OWN *FREE WILL*!!!



JUST AS I **THOUGHT!** THE RING-MASTER'S HYPNOTIC POWER CAME FROM HIS **HAT!**

IN SOME WAY, HE MANAGED TO CREATE AN ELECTRONIC ENERGY FLOW WHICH MAGNIFIES ALL THE THOUGHTS OF THE ONE NEAREST THE HAT, AND PROJECTS THEM OUTWARD WITH IRRESISTIBLE IMPACT! **BOY!!** I'M GETTIN' TO SOUND LIKE **REED RICHARDS!**

OKAY, FOLKS! SNAP OUT OF IT! THE SHOW'S OVER! TIME TO GO HOME!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE HYPNOTIC SPELL IS BROKEN AND THE AUDIENCE AWAKENS, THINKING THEY HAVE SEEN AN EXCITING PERFORMANCE!

DID YOU ENJOY IT, MATT?

WELL, I DID MANAGE TO STAY AWAKE!

WHAT A GREAT SHOW!!

BEST DANGED CIRCUS I EVER SAW!

BUT, MINUTES LATER, AS THE CROWD FILES OUT...

OH! WHERE'S MR. MURDOCK??!

HE WAS HERE A SECOND AGO! IF WE LOSE HIM IN THIS CROWD...!

HOWEVER, NOT FAR AWAY, THE IRREPRESSIBLE MATT MURDOCK ENJOYS ONE LAST PRIVATE JOKE...

I COULDN'T HELP HEARING THE POLICE TAKING YOU AWAY, SIR! IF YOU SHOULD NEED A **LAWYER**, HERE'S MY CARD!

KEEP 'EM MOVIN', JOE!

AWW, GET LOST!

THERE HE IS, KAREN!

MR. MURDOCK! WE WERE GETTING SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU... IN THIS BIG CROWD...!

I'M OKAY, KAREN! I WAS JUST, EH, TRYING TO DRUM UP SOME BUSINESS!

WELL, THAT'S THE LAST OF THE **RINGMASTER** AND HIS CREW! TOO BAD I DIDN'T GET TO KNOW **DAREDEVIL** BETTER!

YOU SEE, MR. MURDOCK... YOU CAN ENJOY THE CIRCUS JUST LIKE ANYBODY ELSE!

KAREN'S RIGHT, MATT!

SHE'LL NEVER KNOW JUST HOW RIGHT SHE IS!

WHILE SPIDER-MAN...

HO-HUM! BETTY'S PROBABLY STILL MAD AT ME BECAUSE I DIDN'T TAKE HER TO THE CIRCUS! AUNT MAY IS PROBABLY WAITING TO NAG ME SOME MORE ABOUT DATING THAT MARY JANE CHICK! THE MOST FUN I HAD ALL DAY WAS FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE! HOW ABOUT THAT??!

DAREDEVIL APPEARS REGULARLY IN HIS OWN MAGAZINE... AND OL' SPIDEY WILL BE BACK NEXT ISH TO THRILL YOU AS USUAL! TILL THEN, STAN, AND STEVE, AND WEB-HEAD HIMSELF SAY... ALWAYS FACE FRONT!

THE END



SPIDER'S WEB

Dear Stan and Steve,

Although I'm just a lowly college freshman I'm a great fan of all Marvel Comics, and I just had to write to tell you how much I appreciate them—especially SPIDER-MAN! I just finished reading your latest and your greatest Spider-Man, which is stupendous, to say the very least! Seconds after I finished reading I was so frenzied with enthusiasm that I picked up the first piece of paper and writing apparatus in sight. The way you bring your readers to the edge of a nervous breakdown by the thought of seeing the end of Spider-Man, and then slapping them in the face with the fact that our favorite hero is better off than ever, is unbelievable. My highest compliments to both of you. Stan did a really terrifyingly terrific job—the white-heat of his inspiration must be his genius showing through. Steve's drawings depicted every moment of emotion in outstanding fashion. I thank you very much!

Andy G. Nevares, 3911 Zephyr St.
Houston 21, Texas

Gee whiz, Andy, if you don't like our mags, why don't you just come right out 'n say so?!

Dear Stan and Steve,

We wish to have some information concerning Spider-Man's unique webbing. In issue #12 you showed Spider-Man reloading with cartridges of web fluid. Now, since we didn't get the first few issues of Spider-Man, we would like to know how he made or makes the fluid which he uses, the way the release works, and the method used in forcing the fluid out. Please do not tell us that it is a secret and it cannot be told!

Darrell Wade, Tony & Joe Muscatello
Rt. #1, Box 329, Bluefield, W. Va.

Not only do you ask tough questions, but then you tell us what we shouldn't tell you, eh? You'll find most of the answers you want in the Spidey Annual on sale in June! Anything you don't see there—forget it!

Dear Stan and Steve,

You know that a person who is addicted to cigarettes is likely to have a nicotine fit if he goes too long between smokes. Well, as of two days ago I am having a Spider-Man fit! My pupils are dilated (from lack of reading material), my pulse is rapid, I can't eat and I can't sleep. If the next issue doesn't come out soon I think I might start pulling my hair out by the roots. There is one thing about your mag which I simply can't stand—it only comes out once a month instead of every week! Please see if you can do anything about this intolerable situation.

Bill Payne, 2701 Portland Ave.
Louisville, Ky.

You think YOU'VE got trouble? You should see US when our pay checks arrive late!!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Today I read the latest issue of SPIDER-MAN and F.F. They were both okay except that in some parts of both magazines it got too mushy. Girls are okay in their own place, I always say. How would you like your magazines to be called "The Marvel Age of Henpecked Super-Heroes"? So please get Betty out of Spider-Man and keep Sue just the Invisible Girl—not Mrs. Reed Richards!

Jay Blackburn, 548 Inghram Ave.
Calumet City, Ill.

That might be okay with US, Jay—but we're not so sure Spidey and Reed would like your suggestion!

Dear Stan and Steve,

STRANGE TALES #120 was a very good issue but we think Iceman should have a girl friend just like everyone else. We also feel after reading issue #12 of SPIDER-MAN that he should reveal his identity to Betty; then he would be able to carry on a more normal life for he would have someone to talk to. We would appreciate an answer as we read your comic books when we take a coffee break while we study.

Gail Schottenstein & Phyllis Schwartz
100 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

Well, gals, it seems to us that it would be pretty tough to lead a normal life, even if you reveal your secret to your girl friend, if you happen to be a guy who runs around evenings in a Spider costume and swings thru the air on webs! But, to each his own!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #12 and it was pretty good. But the one boo-boo you made was on page 6 at the bottom of the page in the lower lefthand corner when you said, "...and atop the highest roller coaster at the Amusement Park." They were not on a roller coaster but on a ferris wheel! That was the only thing wrong with #12—otherwise it was one of the best!

Steve Keyes, 3077 Donny Brook
Costa Mesa, Calif.

You're right, Steve, and we're wrong—as usual! Apparently the blamed thing was so high that we couldn't tell WHAT it was from 'way down below!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I'd like to mention simply the question of realism which you are forever injecting into your Spider-Man stories: I've noticed that Spider-Man is the first comic in which the police have been given a bit of recognition. Too often police are ignored even though they do a good job of handling the necessary task of protecting law and order. (Of course this is understandable since some of their work would make dry comic reading and you'd probably have trouble convincing a reader that a cop was as effective as ol' Spidey, anyway!) At any rate, I was pleased to see your use of the police.

Richard Weingroff, 3231 Southgreen Rd.
Baltimore, Md.

A fat lot of GOOD it does us! Ol' Stan just got a parking ticket last week!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Lots of readers have complained that word balloons spoil your covers. Well, something else like that bugs me. I've been looking at your current Marvel issues and have seen the slogans about how great Marvel is. It spoils the whole cover! So how about cutting out all these words of praise so we can see the art? We readers know that this is the MARVEL AGE OF COMICS and if you don't, then for the love of Pete, read one of your mags sometime!

Dick North, 5962 N. Sheridan Rd.
Chicago 40, Ill.

What?? After WRITING them all day?? Have a heart, Dick!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Your Spider-Man magazine is really beginning to take hold here. The main reason is that Spider-Man is portrayed as such a natural guy. This makes the magazine very enjoyable to read and gives it humor in between the dramatic moments. In reference to Pete himself, we think that he should stick to dating high school girls. Although you have explained that Betty is Pete's age, there is some-

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thing about his dating a working girl that seems out of character. Dating her denotes a certain suave, man-of-the-world trait that we don't think he possesses. We hope that Spider-Man does not become incorporated into any other magazine because then he would lose his significance. In short, your magazine is a very entertaining and original work. We hope to see a lot more of it!

Jim Frank & Pete Rabalais
St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas.

Thanks, guys. But maybe YOU have the nerve to tell Spidey whom he should date—WE sure don't!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Holy Toledo! In my opinion Spider-Man #12 was the best issue since #4 which featured the Sandman. However, the title of the story just didn't fit. Pete was unmasked, but it wasn't the main point of the story. Come to think of it, I don't know what the heck was the main point??!!

Gary Rafferty, 19 120th St.
Troy, N. Y.

Know something, Gary? We're with YOU! Half the time WE never can figure out the point of these stories either! But, we never knew they NEEDED one!

Dear Stan and Steve,

My husband and I buy all the Marvel magazines we can get our hands on. We think they are really great! By the way, we feel that sometimes using Communists as villains gives a story impact and promotes an interest in world affairs. Keep up the good work and we'll do our part — buying!

Mrs. Danny Lee Moore
Leftwitch St., Gretna, Va.

We can't ask for more than THAT! As for the Communists—they haven't been bothering Spidey much lately. We don't know whether to be pleased or offended!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have read enough of your boring hogwash! I hate your comics so much I always want the bad guys to win! You call them "mags"! They should be "rags"! Where do you get your jokes from... "Romper Room"? As far as I know the Marvel Age of Comics should have gone out with the Ice Age. And another thing... I hope Spider-Man gets swatted!!

Bruce Donehower, 47 Woodland Rd.
Short Hills, N. J.

Sorry, Bruce! No matter how you beg—you can't have our autographs!!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Our organization "Candid Opinions" feels that your periodical is one of the greatest to hit the stands today. The entire concept which you impose is incomparable. The art and plots are totally different in the sense that they have never before been attempted with such successful results. Keep up the good work—we wish you every success due your fine magazine!

Mark Laroe, President
Candid Opinions Organization
1537 S. Clarion, Philadelphia, Pa.

We're not quite sure what "Candid Opinions" IS, Mark—but considering the good taste you show in literature, we feel you're a FINE organization!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I'm sure that if everyone of us out here in Comiciand, including spiders, took a poll for the top super-hero of the year, SPIDER-MAN would win hands down. Never... yes... never in the history of Comiciand has there been a character whose personality is played up as much as Peter Parker's! This has contributed to making Spider-Man your most realistic magazine. It seems that Peter always has something to say behind the backs of others unlike many heroes who are so good and wholesome that it's downright disgusting! Peter, being a teenager, is at an age when most young people think that they are being looked down upon, and even though he has superhuman powers, he is a human being, so naturally he would have a lot of rebuttal. Please continue the half Peter/Spider-Man pictures—I think this illuminates the inner conflict due to his dual identity. Because of his emotions and his exciting stories, you have made AMAZING SPIDER-MAN one of the top ranking heroes in the brief history of his comic. Many thanks!

Steve Jam, 949 Gretta Ave.
West Covina, Cal.

Wow! Another few flattering letters like yours, Steve, and we'll start believing our own publicity! Anyway, we still maintain that the best thing about ol' Spidey is his ever-lovin' FANS!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

—Well, how about that DAREDEVIL, eh?? No featured character we've ever presented, not even Spidey himself, has ever been greeted with so spontaneous a wave of enthusiasm from you fans as D.D.! And, if you haven't seen it yet, his new third ish is on sale now, featuring the macabre menace of the mysterious Owl, Overlord of Crime! ((Whew! Try saying THAT thru a mouthful of peanut butter!))

—The SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1 should be going on sale just about now, and if you miss it, don't say we didn't warn you! Besides having an unbroken 41-page feature story—plus a million unexpected features and pin-ups—it also has the surprise sensation of the season: A novelty entitled "How Stan and Steve Create Spider-Man." We guarantee you'll get a real charge out of it!

—However, we didn't have room in the Spidey Annual to include the much-requested Origin story of our li'l web-head! But, in our usual mixed-up manner, we DID manage to squeeze it into MARVEL TALES ANNUAL #1, also on sale in June. This, too, will most likely be a sellout, for it features the origins of Spidey, Thor, Giant-Man, Sgt. Fury, Iron Man, and the incredible Hulk, together with photos of practically every member of the Marvel bullpen!

—Have you met Diablo yet? He's the FANTASTIC FOUR's newest villain and you might as well get to know him because, the way WE operate, Spidey will probably be battling him before long! F.F. #30—Another great one from the leader!

—Remember the Enchantress and the Executioner, from THOR #103?? Well, they both team up with Zemo to battle THE AVENGERS in the current ish! And wait'll you see the Thunder God battling his own allies in this one!

—BIG NEWS! Starting with ish #60, our jolly green giant, the Hulk, will be the co-feature of TALES TO ASTONISH, sharing the top billing with GIANT-MAN! And to start things off on the right foot, ol' high-pockets and the Wasp battle the Hulk in the issue preceding it —#59, now on sale! So, Hulk-lovers of the world, arise! TALES TO ASTONISH—Get it!

—Another item of earth-shattering import is the fact that the ever-lovin' Thing will be teamed up with the Human Torch in STRANGE TALES from now on, beginning with the current #124 ish! And Doc Strange will still be the back-up feature of that mag!

—By the way, don't dare miss SGT. FURY #9, now on sale! When Marvel decides to find a villain, we don't kid around! We get the MOST villain there is! Yep, you guessed it! Fury and his Howlers tackle Hitler himself in this ish! It's a corker!

—And while you're at it, you might as well make it a clean sweep and buy IRON MAN #57 to see what ol' shell-head is up to! He's battling a nut named Hawkeye this month and some of Don Heck's artwork will make your eyes pop! Meanwhile, back at the ranch, our hammer-swinging hero, Thor, is trying to figure out how to defeat a character who calls himself The Grey Gargoyle! You'll find all the sordid details in THOR #107!

—We still have a little space left, but we're gonna resist the temptation to tell you what MILLIE THE MODEL and PATSY WALKER are doing this month!! As for KID COLT OUTLAW, TWO-GUN KID, and RAWHIDE KID—we can't remember what's going on with them ourselves! But, if Westerns are your meat, you can be sure that they're a'ridin' and a'fightin' and a'shootin' with the best of 'em!

—There's no telling WHAT our next ish of SPIDER-MAN will be, because Stan and Steve are still in a fog from knocking themselves out on THIS one, as well as putting together the 72-page Annual! But, you can be sure they'll come up with SOMETHING — and, whether it's their best, or their worst, you know it'll STILL be worth reading! So, till then, face front!!